

Dear Oakhill School Family

We are very much in the process of preparing for the 2027 Oakhill Waterfront Chukka Festivals and are greatly looking forward to once again hosting this unique and highly anticipated series of festivals in February. We have based the decision to proceed with these events on independent water testing conducted by two separate laboratories. The three playing areas at the Waterfront have been tested repeatedly, with results consistently returning well below the maximum allowable E. coli levels required for recreational use. Importantly, the Waterfront has remained below these thresholds despite some concerning readings elsewhere in the lagoon.

We do, however, recognise that there are factors beyond our control, particularly given that we are operating in an open-water environment. While we cannot guarantee that conditions will remain unchanged, we have been working closely with various municipal departments and other stakeholders to ensure that we are managing as many of the controllable factors as possible. Water quality testing will continue in the lead-up to the festivals, allowing us to monitor conditions and make informed decisions as we move forward. We are fully committed to making the 2027 festivals a great success and look forward to welcoming schools and players back to Knysna.

As communicated recently we are in the process of preparing the tuckshop for the new service providers commencing in January 2027. In order to accommodate some refurbishments and alterations the tuckshop will be closed from Monday 16 November until the end of term. Arrangements have been made to provide some temporary basic catering services with a limited offering over the final few weeks of term starting on Wednesday 18 November. Nice Neighbour, who will be operating the tuckshop from January 2027, have kindly agreed to set up their food trailer on campus from Wednesday to provide coffee, drinks, sandwiches and baked goods until the end of term. **Please note that there will therefore be no tuckshop facility available at school on Monday 16 November and Tuesday 17 November.**

Following the adoption of the new student leadership model in the College at the end of last year the Grade 12s of 2026 set about making the most of the opportunity to serve as each student chose a portfolio in line with their passion and strength. This cohort did an outstanding job in serving in this first version of the leadership model based very much on the concept of Servant Leadership setting the bar and course for others groups to follow. The leadership portfolios each have a chairperson who then forms part of the Senior Executive Council (SEC). Further to this, two students, who embody the characteristics of servant leadership and who are known as the School Representatives, are elected by the Grade 11 students and College staff. Both of these students sit on the Senior Executive Council and the Student Representative Council representing the school at important school events and initiatives.

We are delighted to acknowledge the student leaders for 2027 and extend our best wishes as they take up these important roles and responsibilities. We also wish the entire group success and significance as they serve in their relevant portfolios. Congratulations to the following students who have been elected to leadership positions for 2027:



School Representatives
Chairperson School Executive Council (SEC): Liam Jefferies
Chairperson Student Representative Council (SRC): Taylor Kourie
Photographed with the outgoing 2026 Heads of SRC and SEC, Caleb and Anja (standing in photo).



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13 November 2026





Student Executive Council Portfolios	
Student Wellness	
Chairperson:	Xanthe Kerr
Vice Chairperson:	Akhululwe Wakeni
Outreach & Environment	
Chairperson:	Raegan Murdoch
Vice Chairperson:	Annabella Geoghegan
PR & Marketing	
Chairperson:	Zosia Covarr
Vice Chairperson:	Skyler de Lange
Belonging	
Chairperson:	Frances (Bea) Duncan
Vice Chairperson:	Kessia Seeger
Culture	
Chairperson:	Righardt Reyneke
Vice Chairperson:	Josephine Zgambo
Sport	
Chairperson:	Storm Thompson
Vice Chairperson:	Cath-Lynn Jansen
Spirit	
Chairperson:	Njabulo Mthethwa
Vice Chairperson:	Taygan-Tara Everts

House Captains	
Bendigo Captain:	Thimna Sokunentsa
Bendigo Vice Captains:	Frances (Bea) Duncan
	Thomas Crouch
Jubilee Captain:	Skyler de Lange
Jubilee Vice Captains:	Liam Jefferies
	Brianna Smuts
Millwood Captain:	Cath-Lynn Jansen
Millwood Vice Captains:	Njabulo Mthethwa
	Taylor Kourie

Last weekend, a combined cohort of Oakhill staff and students took on the prestigious Knysna Extreme 0.5 Triathlon. Facing gruelling conditions and the appearance of all four seasons in a day, relay teams tackled the demanding course which included a 2.5 km Lagoon Swim, a 100 km Garden Route Cycle, and a 30 km Run finishing deep in the Knysna Forest at Diepwalle.



Despite the challenging elements, both staff and students conquered their fears and acquitted themselves remarkably well. Setting the tone early, Grade 12 student Amelia



Interact Committee
President: Raegan Murdoch
Vice President: Annabella Geoghegan
Secretary: Olivia Acton



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Manning delivered a spectacular performance by completing the swimming leg first overall.

Participation was made possible by an incredible support network and tremendous team effort. On behalf of the participants we extend our sincere thanks to the families, staff, and student volunteers who assisted with logistics, route support, and transportation throughout the day. The team look forward to building on this success as the Knysna Extreme celebrates its 10th edition in 2027.

The annual Grade 7 Dinner was held at Simola and provided an opportunity for our biggest Grade 7 group to date to enjoy an evening of reflection and connection with staff, family and friends. We were once again warmly hosted as we enjoyed the wonderful venue and outstanding food. As ever the Oakhill Marketing and Events team helped to make the event even more special as they added tasteful touches that added so much to the occasion and the theme for the evening. The incredible talent of our music department staff was on full display and was a delightful and very welcome accompaniment to the early evening part of the programme.

The Grade 5 group have, this week, enjoyed their annual school camp which took them to Mossel Bay and Oudsthoorn and included visits to the Diaz Museum, the Water Park in Hartenbos, the Cango Caves and Cango Wildlife Ranch, the Ostrich Farm and Wilgewandel to mention but a view of the exciting experiences enjoyed. The Grade 4s have also just returned from their camp where they were based in Fisanthoek and enjoyed wonderful experiences including a hike and visits to Adventure Land, Muddy Foot Adventures and Radical Raptors. Our sincere thanks go to our incredible staff who make such awesome experiences possible.

The resurfacing of the OSC Hockey Astro has commenced and we are very excited to be upgrading this facility. Our current surface has given 13 years of service and this wonderful venue has transformed our hockey programme and offering. The new surface will provide a state of the art surface that will further enhance our hockey programme and ensure that our facility is of the highest quality as we continue to deliver wonderful hockey experiences. This resurfacing of the OSC Astro provides us the opportunity to also replace the aging astro on the school astro with repurposed astroturf taken from the OSC. The work on the school astro has already commenced.



The OSC dam is undergoing rehabilitation to improve the water quality and get it to recreational usage standards. We are very excited at the opportunities this will provide including the prospect of housing a full size water polo pool at the dam providing additional training and match options going forward.

The very popular Oakhill Christmas Market takes place on Sunday 6 December so make sure that you keep this date in mind and join us as we enjoy this special festive occasion.

The Oakhill Matric Art Exhibition officially opens today. The exhibition will be open to all Oakhill families, friends, and the general public from Monday, 16 November - Friday, 20 November between 09:00 and 17:00 daily and will be hosted at Regus Knysna, at the Waterside Shopping Centre.

We continue to wish all students writing exams everything of the best and in particular would like to encourage and wish the Matrics well with their final two weeks of exams.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

James

