

# PIN OAK

*WELCOME  
TO 2021!*



Gold and Silver

Why does it exist?

- 3. Head of College
- 4. Head of Academic and Innovation
- 5. Head of Senior School
- 6. Junior Gallery
- 7. Head of Junior School
- 8-9. Feature Article
- 10. Old Oxleyan
- 11. Inspiration
- 12.

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Welcome back to 2021 and our  
Üfgh di V]VH]cb' cZ D]b' CU\_" Æi  
has been wonderful to hear  
the excitement and see the joy  
in our young people as they  
have commenced their classes,  
co-curricular activities and  
friendships. Oxley has come alive  
and it has been wonderful to witness the new students  
being made welcome and the older ones supporting  
and helping our younger members of the school. The  
students have taken delight in seeing the changes to  
facilities and improvements made over the summer  
a cbh\g' Zcf' h.Y]f' VYbYÜH" = Xc' \cdY' h.Ym\Uj' Y' Wæa Y'  
home with great pride and respect  
for belonging to the Oxley College  
community.

With the College almost at student  
capacity and having reached our  
mature model of 'ideal' size almost  
two years ahead of schedule, it is  
important to note that there are no  
plans to become any bigger. Our  
current size allows us to have the  
sense of a 'small school' so highly  
valued where every student is really  
\_bck b' UbX' hc' Ugc' VY' UV'Y' hc' c' Yf' U'  
rich and diverse range of opportunities  
for our students. So, as we begin  
2021, we have a new theme; "Oxley  
College. One School. One Focus on Excellence".

There is a saying what we focus on, we grow! In 2021  
ghU' UbX' ghi XYbHg' UfY' ZcW]g]b[ 'cb[ fck ]b[ 'UW' hi fY' cZ  
excellence in all we do, so we can be the very best we  
can be. It requires real grit and determination to do this  
but the joy and sense of achievement  
that comes from knowing we have  
done something well or mastered a  
new skill, promotes positive wellbeing  
UbX' \Y'dgi' g' Üci f]g\ 'Ug' \i a Ubg'

As American professional Basketball  
player and coach Pat Riley is quoted,  
'Excellence is really the gradual result  
which comes for always striving to  
do better'. Excellence is intentional  
and starts with small steps and very  
a i W' Ühg' k ]h' ci f' ghi XYbHg' g]f] ]b[ ž  
stretching and sticking with their  
learning. We encourage you to support  
your children in developing good  
habits and striving for their excellence (which looks  
X] YfYbhm Zcf' Yj Yfm VW] XÉ ]b' U' h.Ym Xc" : 9bWæi fU[ Y'  
h.Ya 'k \Yb' h.Y' \YUfb]b[ [ Yhg' hci [ \ 'cf' X] W' hZ' hfmbch  
to allow them to step away from challenges rather  
re-frame it as an opportunity to grow and to develop  
excellence and improve their wellbeing from the sense

of achievement they get from getting through a tough  
period or challenging situation. It is our job as a school  
and as parents to prepare our young people for the  
un-chartered and challenging but joyful journey of life  
beyond Oxley and the Southern Highlands.

## **Thriving Learning**

Welcome back to all our students, families and teachers. We are very excited to be able to be back on campus, inspired by our Pin Oak, ready and eager to learn new things in 2021.

## Welcome to 2021!

It has been wonderful to welcome students back to Oxley at the start of the school year, as well as to welcome the 121 students who have joined the Senior School across Years 7-12. The beginning of the 2020 school year already feels a long time ago, when we returned to school in the midst of a terrible







## Weekly Awards

### Learning Journey

K: Isabella Francipane  
 Yr 1: Harrison Peebles  
 Yr 2: Emily Wright  
 Yr 3B: Tatenda Jamba  
 Yr 3R: Elena Clarke  
 Yr 4A: Pixie Hanson  
 Yr 4W: Arthur Pemberton  
 Yr 5C: Harry Keats  
 Yr 5N: Coen Bertollo, Sam Cottle  
 Yr 6H: Caelan Granger  
 Yr 6S: Amelie Richards

### Oxley Values

K: Evan Callan  
 Yr 1: Naomi Robertson  
 Yr 2: Xavier Halstead  
 Yr 3B: Charlotte Byrne  
 Yr 3R: Ian Phillips  
 Yr 4A: Thomas Berry  
 Yr 4W: Rhodes Feller  
 Yr 5C: Grace Kean  
 Yr 5N: Summer Johns  
 Yr 6H: Polly Hopkinson  
 Yr 6S: Charlie Knight

### SRP Reprs

Yr 1: Em Hunt, April Sneddon  
 Yr 2: Stella Bacon, Cameron Bailey  
 Yr 3B: Greta Saviana, Lilliana Giro  
 Yr 3R: Bianca Bode, Elena Clarke  
 Yr 4A: Pixie Hanson, Remy McIntosh  
 Yr 4W: Harry Gaunt, Lisa Mussett  
 Yr 5C: Ed Hunt, Edie Cavanaugh  
 Yr 5N: Thomas Adamson, Phoebe Keith  
 Yr 6H: Bronte Morgan, Archer Guilly  
 Yr 6S: Oliver Henderson, Molly Edwards

### Premiers Reading Challenge Gold Awards

Anna Sutherland Year 4  
 Hadley Morgan Year 4  
 Ingrid Lawson Year 6



It is always exciting places to be, particularly at the beginning of a new year. There is a renewed sense of optimism about the possibilities and opportunities ahead. Everyone is rested and feeling ready for anything!

We are lucky as teachers, to be involved in the vocation of growing people and developing potential. The quote by Pearl Buck reveals something about excellence that is so true. That is, that excellence brings joy because it is linked to mastery. That we can do or achieve something we didn't as human beings.

The PERMA model of wellbeing made famous by Psychologist, Dr Martin Seligman, engagement; relationships; meaning and accomplishment. It is also a model for a classroom operating at its best. A classroom led by a passionate and skilled teacher ensures children are engaged, feeling positive about themselves as learners, and are making meaning of the world. Importantly, in the wellbeing a sense of achievement, and within that is the implication that we must be stretching ourselves and constantly growing to have a sense of wellbeing.

As we head into a new year, we seek the joy of learning together and mastering many new skills.

### Spotlight on: Spelling

At Oxley College, we have been investigating contemporary approaches to spelling instruction. We know that Spelling is a vital skill that undergirds all vocabulary, reading and even speaking development. For many who grew up with, 'Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check', mysterious. Research studies have shown that teachers of tools to teach how words work.

Wollongong to try to demystify the English language. Dr and writing in Australian school contexts and involved almost 1400 students across 17 schools. In 2017, Tessa was also the recipient of the Australian Literacy Educators' Association Doctoral Thesis Award. Tessa is currently working with NESA on their new English Syllabus and is also writing a Spelling textbook with Oxford University Press.

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Ye

# The Clavician Laws

There was once a great city called the Emerald Valley built on the premise of an ancient, underground mine.

Fi `YX' Vm U' >Uf' É' 7Uj Jwg' É' hY' Vj J]gUhc b' k Ug' ]gc' UHX' Z'ca ' the rest of Farador, where it was sequestered within the Belmare mountains in the far northern ranges of The Hearth Hold.



The Jarl paused, his unwavering stare hiding his deep thoughts  
UbX'gYVYrg Ug\Y'fYUVMX'i dcb'hY'gjh Uh'cb'Uh\UbX"

"After everything you have told me... would you be willing to accept one last favour for me, Curwæ?" She nodded.

Í = bYYX' nci ' rc' ÜbX' ci h' k\c' ]g' [ c]b[ ' rc' VfyU\_ hY' 7'Uj ]MUb' Laws. Once you have a name and a reason, report back to me immediately."

Speechless, Curwæ placed a gloved hand over her heart, bowed and then left the Jarl's private balcony.

In the day that was still just renewing, Jarl Clavicus observed the young warrior from his private balcony as she began her investigation.

He watched as she weaved in and out of houses, bartered with market stall vendors, bought various goods from merchants and had a seemingly long, stirring conversation with Lund; a withering, lazy farmer who had arrived upon the citadel's doorsteps in a drunken haze seven years ago.

By the time the orb began to dull into yet another night, Curwæ had forgone her armour and was now bedecked in yellow robes with a tight leather corset; traditional of a typical woman within hY' 9a YfUX'JU'Ym'hY'>Jf\UX'ei YghYX\Yf'rc'ÜbX'hY'X]gc:VYmYf' and earn the trust of the people. She had done just that and more.

In one day, she had already found a name. The old man, Lund, had confessed to murdering his best-friend over a simple farming feud and had a reputation for causing trouble within the .... Tavern. These simple acts made Curwæ wonder what happened behind closed doors.

As she made her way to the citadel, she noticed from afar that Jarl Clavicus was not standing upon his balcony as he routinely did. But perhaps she would run into him on her trek to the top ÜccfÄ 'g\Y'X]X' bch' G\Y' Ug\_YX' hY' gYfj Ubtg' UbX' hY' [i UfXg' cZ the citadel about the Jarl's location and they informed her that occasionally he would disappear from his perch. Interesting. One female maid reported that the barred doors at the far rear left of the citadel were often left unlocked, though they were forbidden to enter. Very interesting.

That night, from where the warrior slept in her quarters within the VYUXY'ž'g\Y'ZY'hU'ghfUb[ Yžj ]VfUh'cb'di'gUh]b[ 'h'fci [ \ hY' Üccfg' and into her bed.

9l ]h]b[ 'hY'fccca ž'g\Y'k Ug'gi'fdf]gYX'rc'ÜbX'\YfgY'Z'hY'cb'mcbY' to be disturbed by the feeling. After her day spent investigating, it was evident that people don't practise magic in the Emerald Valley anymore, yet it was undoubtedly in the air; copious and lingering in the myriad of rich incense and rusted gold. It was a deeper, denser... darker magic that called from below, and she followed it.

Curwæ soon found herself standing before the barred doors at the bottom of the citadel. It was unlocked. The room behind k Ug'hi'bbY'YXž'k ]fQ Ug' f

C

\$

# OLD OXLEYAN



**Bck hUhnai BY'c ]b'hYV][ 'k ]XY'k cf'Xzk \Uh\Uj Y' nci 'a UXY'cZnci fgY'Zg]bW'Ub]g\]b[ 'gWcc`'UhCl' Yn8**

After school I knew that I wanted to go to uni, but had no [XYU'k \Uh=k UbhX'hc' gi Xr'i Gc' =tcc\_ 'U'nYUf'c 'UbX'k cf\_YX' as an Apprentice Bookbinder and Conservator in Goulburn. Fixing old books and 150-year-old parliamentary bills gave me plenty of time to think about my future (and I knew it k Ugb]i[ c]b[ 'hc' VY'Vcc\_V]bX]b[ 'L''6YHk Yyb'a mtk ]b''cj Yg' of science and music, I decided to pursue science, because I thought I might be able to discover something that would help humanity somehow. I did a Bachelor degree with Honours majoring in Chemistry at Sydney University, then was accepted to Oxford, where I did a research doctorate in Chemistry. While at Oxford I rubbed shoulders with Dames, Knights, Ladies and Lords, and joined an all-male cappella fg]b[ ]b[ L'[ fci d'W'YX'Ci hcZ'hY'6'i Yz'k \]W' =dYfZcfa YX' with on Britain's Got Talent in 2011! Yes, there are YouTube j ]XYcg'fh ]g'k Ug'Xi f]b[ 'a mUcddm\U]f' gU] YL''''5ZYf' completing the DPhil (and walking the Camino de Santiago ]b'GdU]b'hc' \Y'd'a mVfU]b' gY'hY'Xck bLz' =a cj YX'VUW'hc' Australia in 2014 to help my Dad start up a business based around his inventions in the construction industry. Together k ]h' 'a mVfch.Yfgz' <UhXYb'fCl' YmiU'i a b] &\$\*\$Lz'@[ Ub' fCl' YmiU'i a b]hc' M'Uf' -L'UbX'Fnt]bzk Y'Vi ]hi d'h'g'Vi g]bYgg' from scratch, and now we've sold our InQuik bridges all over Australia, and are delivering our BuiltQuik houses to Indigenous communities around NSW!

**K \Uh]gnci f'V][ [ YghUW]Y] Ya Ybhg]bW\][ \ 'gWcc`3**

The achievement I'm most proud of is that I have the very rare distinction of having two doctorate degrees - one from Sydney University, and one from Oxford. Before I left for hY'i ?' =k cf\_YX'a mVi h'ic' 'Vt''YV]b[ 'XU]U'UhGnXbYml b]z' which initially was intended for a Masters degree. I wrote up the thesis while studying in the UK, and it just kept getting bigger! Eventually my supervisor agreed I could submit it as U'D\8zk \]W' =k Ug'Uk UfXYX' ]b' &\$% "'H\Yb' UZYf' =Ub]g\YX' my Oxford degree in 2014 I ended up with two doctorates in Chemistry! What's the point of having two? There isn't one! 9l Wdhia UhWY'VfU[ [ ]b[ 'f][ \hg''''/L

=pY' \UX'a mg\UFY'cZX] W'hYI dYf]YbWg'z'Vi h'hY'UVgc'i hY' hardest thing I've ever done is cope with my brother Hayden's sudden death in 2018 from an apparent heart

On the morning Saturday 12 December, I woke up to Taylor Swift's surprise indie-folk album "folklore" being released. Christmas had come early! Like folklore and unlike Swift's prior discography Evermore, is predominantly non-autobiographical. Evermore's opening track and lead single Willow (A whimsical and enchanting opening about the intrigue that goes into falling in love with someone who everybody else admires produced with a dual beat about the jealousy of falling in love with someone who everybody else admires produced by Taylor Swift and Aaron Dessner) has a potential for radio exposure. Whereas other songs like Champagne Problems (Excuse me, whilst I go sob in tears) Swift sings about a woman's rejection of a proposal. Swift implies that the protagonist's history of mental illness has been subject of gossip from the town; who dub her issues to be "Champagne Problems" (A term used to trivialise her rejection saying, "She would have made such a lovely bride, what a shame she's F\*cked in the head."

Like Folklore, several of the songs in Evermore combine in order to tell a greater story. Tis the Damned Season and Dorothea tell the story of a girl returning back home to her small town for the holidays, after having left to chase stardom and rekindling with her hometown spark. Dorothea contemplating throughout Tis the Damned Season what could have been "the road to Hollywood" wonders throughout Dorothea whether Hollywood has changed his former love. "Damn, Dorothea, they all wanna be ya. But are you still the same soul I met under the bleachers?". Where as Tolerate It, Ivy and Happiness form the "Unhappily ever after trilogy";

There is no resting doubt that 'the year that shall not be named' drained the spark out of us all in one way or another. Though, with the fortunate arrival of 2021 our energy tanks have been recharged as we gain that well needed spring in our step. I believe it would be passionately agreed upon that we don't re-live the unprecedented nature of last year. Hence, I have put it upon myself to gather the greatest top-notch advice to help you make the most of your year ahead.

**Talk to yourself.** Communication is regarded as one of the highest qualities attributing to a successful relationship, yet it is constantly neglected and forgotten when talking about an individual and their success as an independent person. It is important to talk to yourself in an energizing way to promote motivation and positivity in your life. Perhaps try and ask yourself why you feel this way and follow that with strategies to overcoming this overwhelming period. The cliché diary or journal method may be a reach for some, yet it is a brilliant form of mindfulness and allows for a greater sense of self.

# SENIOR GALLERY



# DUKE OF ED.



## Gold

Adventure. Verb. From the Old French 'aventurer', meaning 'to risk the loss of', or 'take a chance.'

I am by no means exaggerating when I say my DoFE Gold Hike truly was the trip of a lifetime, right here in our very own Kosciuszko National Park. We hiked through the Tantangara Wilderness Area, 200km southwest of Canberra, under the undaunted instruction of Lands Edge Leader Brendan, and our own fearless Mr Dibdin and exuberant Ms Lanser. The good spirits of our group truly made this trip special. From sharing trail mix at the top of the foreboding Mount Morgan, to patching up blisters, and donating food to those who had underestimated the fuel required for the arduous journey, this group of Duke of Ed-ers was an unforgettable mix of courageous, determined, resilient and zesty individuals who made the unbearably physical journey bearable. In between rocky ascents and much-needed breaks, our time was spent sheltering from unexpected downpours and admiring the fascinating huts of the high country we encountered. Such huts were relics from as early as the 1920s! We even found time to admire a breathtaking sunset in the saddle of two foreboding mountains. Retrospectively, I am not able to recall the physical pain that I encountered, but the mental agility and appreciation for the outdoors this trip gifted me. We were so fortunate to have Mr Dibdin and Ms Lanser give up their holiday time, and willingly embark on such an arduous journey for our sake, and I wish to deeply thank them and everyone else on the trip for being willing to 'risk the loss' of something, be it as trivial as a compass or tent peg, and adventure as a cohesive and supportive group. For anyone considering Duke of Ed in future, never forget. By Ava Lamble, Year 12

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Yay! School's out! So, what do we do? Leave at the crack of dawn on a Silver Duke of Ed adventure to the beautiful Myall Lakes of course! The Zc-fYWghk Ug Zcf gtrcfa mik YUH Yfz Vi h hAY gjj Yf j]b] [ f[ Yh ]h& k Ug h Uh hAY bYUFVVi g\UFY k Ug bc :cb[ Yf U W&bWfb" H YfY k Ugz bYj YfhAY Yggz a real possibility of having to walk instead of canoe. Will saved the day with his injured ankle and we were able to paddle the entirety of the trip!

The bus ride seemed to take forever but once there, we were eager to

# GOOD & OTHER NEWS



In the last week, there has been an unprecedented  
Street and 'anti-establishment' organisations over  
the shares of GameStop. GameStop is a brick-  
and-mortar video-technology store who has faced  
extreme revenue decline over the last decade  
due to the replacement of online platforms.  
Consequently, multi-billion-dollar hedge funds  
were betting on the company's crash in aim of  
making some quick turnover. Over the last few



Richard Davies coached the Oxley 1st Girls Basketball team for the last three Summer seasons. He had a deep love and extensive knowledge of the game which he shared with the girls. He provided wonderful support for the girls. He encouraged the