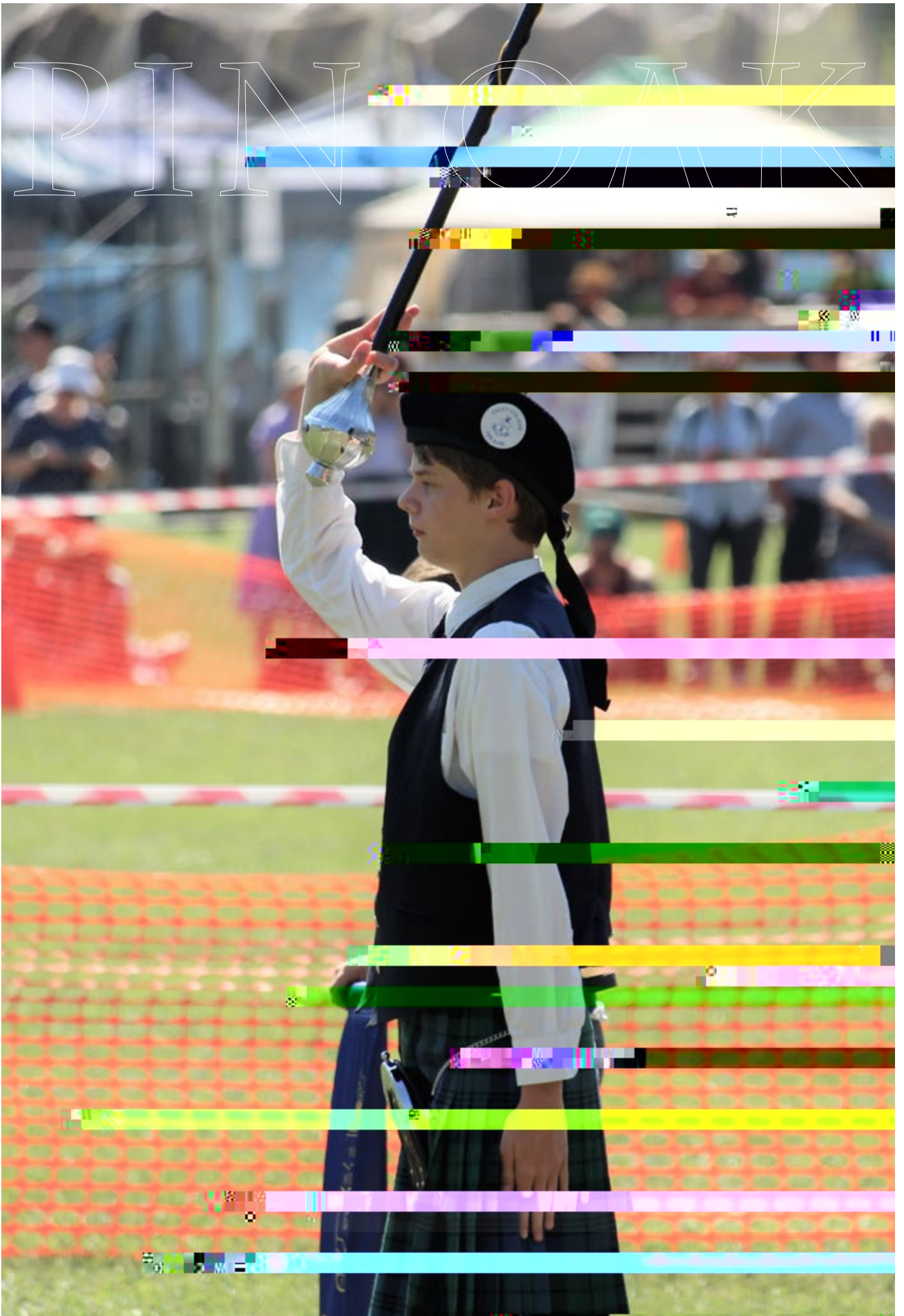


PINOOK



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Pin Oak Team

All too often when we read the news, we are bombarded by negative stories and none more so than those about environmental issues. It seems that in recent months, issues surrounding plastics and their impact on the world's oceans have dominated news headlines. Indeed according to renowned naturalist, Sir David Attenborough "the wildlife in our seas is facing its greatest threat in human history as it struggles to survive against warming temperatures and unprecedented quantities of plastic waste." This was the warning made by David in the final episode of the BBC Documentary series Blue Planet II which aired in Australia in February. A recent article from the Telegraph on Friday 6 April claimed that "a sperm whale washed up on the Spanish coast was killed by plastic pollution". I read on to discover that the whale had ingested 29kg of plastic waste including plastic bags, raf a sacks, pieces of nets, ropes and a plastic jerry can! Furthermore, research by the World Economic Forum and Ellen MacArthur Foundation estimates that by 2050 there could be more plastic than fsh in the sea!

With such negative coverage it is all too easy to feel powerless to do anything about these problems so it was encouraging to read "Drop in Plastic bags in Britain's seas linked to 5p charge". The article explained the link between the introduction of charges for plastic bags in many European countries since 2003 and the 30% drop in the number of plastic bags littering seabeds around Britain. This has got me thinking about the positive impact we can all have on our environment when, Oxley Co.6 (1)lege8223a 2TJ/C21 5(116pos1110.dTw08359255.04504A00FC



HEADMASTER'S REPORT

There are a number of exceptions of course. Some families have many or all of their relatives overseas. It is quite possible that they want to attend weddings or major family reunions that fall outside of our holiday time. This is very understandable and we would like for Oxley students to be able to attend these events with their wider families. (However, this would not include either an extended holiday that was added onto a

I have written about leave twice before at Oxley, but I am restating much of it here for the benefit of parents who have joined our community over the last two years. In 2018 Oxley College students have fourteen weeks of holiday. This is about four weeks longer than Government schools and almost four times as much as the average adult worker. Students no doubt see the length of their annual holiday time as an advantage. However, it does come with a disadvantage; they don't get to choose what time of the year to take them. School holidays fall at the same time for everyone.

Given the length of school holidays at Oxley we feel that family holidays can be organised wholly within these dates. The dates are advertised well in advance. They are found via this link: <https://www.oxley.nsw.edu.au/news-events/terms-college-dates/>. In particular, the availability of seats on frequent flyer points and/or shoulder fares is not a reason to miss school time. The reason why fares are more expensive in holiday times is because that is when students should be travelling so they do not miss school.

In addition we feel that it is important that students do attend, where possible, all of the lessons that have been organised and are set. This becomes more pressing the closer that the student gets to their senior years of study and the HSC in particular. If classes close to holiday time were thinned due to people taking extended holidays, it sends a negative message about the importance of the classes to those students still at school.

This is linked to the 'foodgates' effect; as more families went on leave, the last days of term would become less valuable, leading to more families feeling justified in asking for leave. If we simply 'wrote off' the last few days of term, there would then be in effect a new last day of term: a day that would then be prey to more applications for leave.

There is also the question of 'where to draw the line'. If Oxley College in Term 1 grants a special 'once in a lifetime' request to ski Mount Kailash in Tibet, it then becomes a little more difficult to decline a Term 2 request for a once in a lifetime opportunity to ski at Aspen. Once the School grants a skiing trip in Aspen, it becomes a little more difficult to decline a family in Term 3 who have a special opportunity to ski in New Zealand. Or Thredbo. And so it goes on.



I woke up on Sunday morning to see my parents glued to the TV with the jaws dropped. Australian cricketers had been caught ball tampering in the 3rd test match in Africa was the headline on every news channel. Three players: Steve Smith, David Warner, Cameron Bancroft.

It all started when footage on the Big screen at the cricket ground showed Cameron Bancroft putting something into his pocket. The coach caught sight of this and sent out the 12th man to tell Cameron that he had been caught. Cameron then put the 'thing' down his pants. The umpires had taken notice of this and called Cameron over who then said it was just his sunglasses case. After the game, the players involved knew they were in trouble.

Steve Smith and Cameron Bancroft then held a press conference and admitted that they had tampered with the ball. They claimed that they used sticky tape and dirt. They also admitted that the 'leadership group' had planned the cheating during the lunch break. In the following days, they admitted that they had lied again and the sticky tape was actually sandpaper which was used to tamper with the ball. Lies after lies were spilling

TAKE INSPIRATION



BOOKS

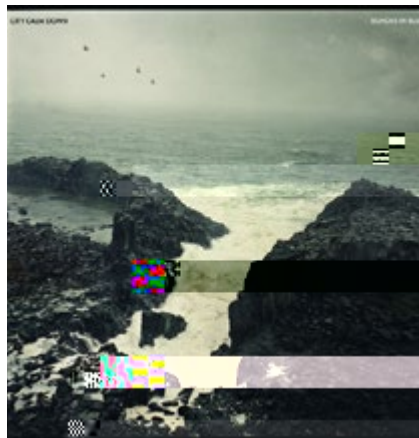
★★★★

The Natural Way of Things

Charlotte Wood's unforgettable dystopian novel, *The Natural Way of Things*, is a gripping tale of survival. When 10 women awake from a drug-induced sleep, they find themselves jailed in the middle of the Australian outback. Guarded by two vicious jailers and a so-called 'nurse', these women are forced to wear strange uniforms, shave their heads and work all day long in the sweltering sun. The girls all have something in common, a so-called 'crime' that has brought them here from the big city.

Wood's novel is savagely and unapologetically an exploration of contemporary misogyny and corporate control. However, the storyline does take a turn, when the food shortage strikes, the women are left to hunt for themselves, turning some of them more feral and crazed than the others. It soon becomes clear, that the jailers have also become jailed, and it is only up to the girls to rescue themselves. Although the ending is somewhat of a disappointment, the intriguing storyline makes up for it. A thought provoker and truth teller; Charlotte Wood creates a dark and brave piece of writing, so real and full of fury, it's scary. If you like *The Handmaid's Tale* and *Lord of the Flies*, I can assure that you will most definitely like *The Natural Way of Things* too.

By Jade Gillis (Year 11)



MUSIC

★★★★

Echoes in Blue by City Calm Down

Released in April 2018, this album is a must-listen for fans of *Simple Minds* and *The National*. In listening to this album, be prepared for an absorbing, swelling soundscape with the breathtaking baritone vocals of front-man Jack Bourke.

Prominent from the get-go are the personal, honest lyrics which involve themes of social isolation, our increasingly digital age, as well as love, pain and redemption. Sometimes worryingly dark, the dreamy, husky, sometimes overpowered vocals are accompanied with upbeat soaring melodies, driving drums, hypnotic warped synths and cohesively added brass instruments. The dreary lyrical content is transformed by the atmospheric, paradoxically vibrant 80s pop beats which truly makes you want to dance.

The must-listen on "Echoes in Blue" is opening song "Joan, I'm Disappearing". Perhaps most representative of the band's sound of elegance and emotion, capturing a heartbreaking story with a heart-racing, spine-tingling swell of synth and post-punk style guitar lines. Atop is an acceptance of a loss of not just a love but himself as Jack repeats again and again "Joan, I'm disappearing." Listen to this album to relax, to feel connected to another's experience, to dance, to cry, to run straight into a kaleidoscope of emotions.

By Maya Chance (Year 11)



FILM

★★★★★

Peter Rabbit

Peter Rabbit is a well-loved childhood series which you can never get enough of. Fortunately, this much enjoyed series has been turned into a movie. Starring the all-time favourite James Gordon (the voice of Peter Rabbit), this movie is a fun, loving, family adventure seeking movie and would definitely draw everyone's attention.

Peter Rabbit is in trouble for giving his caregiver Miss Beatrix Potter's neighbour, Mr McGregor a heart attack. All was fun until the long-lost, horrid nephew of Mr McGregor has to move in. The beautiful Beatrix Potter falls into a heart locked affair with Mr McGregor's nephew and Peter and his family try to break it.

The music creates an amazing suspense of mysteriousness, laughter and enjoyment and that is what I look for in a movie.

It's one of my favourite movies and I highly recommend it for all ages.

By Hannah Zupp (Year 7)





Time & Memory

The attic is airless. She's probably too old to be up here now. The ladder seemed steeper than usual and the drop seemed further. But pieces of the past calm her. Today's box of relics sit shrouded in a cloudy formal veil of dust. The peeling label is printed in a swirl of familiar slanted writing; her mother.

"Jane- years 2-5 primary school."

An aged slip of paper floats lightly to the ground - she was wondering when she'd come across this. The newspaper clipping. She can just make out her own tiny face looking up at her, curiously, uncertainly, a flicker of something unusual, although that could just be the faded ink.

"Stranger danger strikes on our Sydney streets."

The bold font is still a slap, just as it was that first morning. She waits. Here they come, although what is memory and what are the worn fragments of a hundred stories woven over time is impossible to tell.

Nameless faces flash past her. Umbrellas jostle one another above her, fighting for a place on top. Steamy rain in Pitt Street Sydney. Her hand slipping from her mother's is the last thing she fully remembers. The rest is a wet hazy smudge of grey concrete. But she knows what happened. Her parents have grimly recounted the story to her. Abduction.

At six, spoken of in hushed voices, the words give her life a sudden shape they didn't before. Her parents move them from the city to the country, where she begins to tiptoe, only ever brushing the surface of life. The attic is her favourite place, somewhere to bask in the warm sunlight of the familiar. Years pass, the story is the only thing of interest she remembers from her city life. "snatched". Even now the word gives her chills, remembering her mother's face. Her father's grim stare, the way he shook as she was placed into his arms.

The box, today, yields other wonders- an old school ribbon, a self-portrait, an old report card that looked like it had been hidden at the bottom of a school bag, "the cat sat on the mat" written in round, knobby letters over and over again spilling forth from the box- once vibrant colours now faded.



She stumbles across a piece of paper. It feels forgotten.

This time the font is unsophisticated and simple. The paper is rough and torn, it feels untouched; she doesn't remember ever keeping a diary. Her smile quickly vanishes as her eyes are drawn to the date crammed at top of the page. It matches that of the newspaper.

Her brain deciphers the youthful squiggles

"Dear Diary,

Today I was lost and wet. I let go of mummy's hand like she told me not to. Then I felt squashed by the city and the rain. I felt small. I wasn't sure about him at first, but then he smiled. He calmed me down and held my hand to take me to get hot chocolate. He told me jokes and stories, and I got to play with his dog! He said he didn't have a house, but that the city was his home. After my hot chocolate I wasn't sad anymore and he got me help. The police were very worried about me, I tried to tell them but they said I was just confused. Everyone keeps asking me if I'm okay, and saying that something very scary happened to me. But I saw him smile."

She sits. And sits. The words on the page – silent guardians of a truth bent out of shape over forty years of ignorance and prejudice – look back at her. She tries desperately to summon the memories her six year old handwriting promises through a damp distortion of car horns and shadows. They do not come. Only the words of her parents – at bbqs, family dinners: gone all afternoon, filthy clothes, hardly string two sentences together, terrified. No charges laid.

The smile though. That rings true.

Something bubbles up towards the surface, something powerful. And for the first time in a long while, the attic feels small. She reaches across. And although it's not much, she opens a window to pollen filled air and bird chorus.

By Jemima Taylor, (Year 11). A creative writing piece for English.

DEPUTY HEAD REPORT



MENTAL HEALTH WITH BATYR

Out of every 30 students in Australia, seven will deal with a mental health illness. Two of those students will reach out for help, while five will suffer in silence.

These shocking statistics served as a wake up call about the severity and reality of mental health illnesses for many of us sitting in our Batyr seminar. The session mainly focused on what could be done to help friends who are going through a hard time and taught us about warning signs and things to look for in our peers. We heard a personal story that offered us some insights into what it's like to experience a mental health issue and were then given concrete tips and advice about how to approach and help out a friend.

This session was animated and fun and didn't tip toe around the issue, but also managed to be sensitive and convey the severity of the issue of mental health. If you'd like to know more about some of the things they taught us, come and have a chat to a Year 10 or 11 student or have a look at their website!

<http://www.batyr.com.au/>

By Jemima Taylor (Year 11)



BRIGADOON

Hello Everyone,

As I sit here, writing out this week's schedule, I am watching a wee video of our band marching down the street at Bundanoon last Saturday and I am bursting with admiration of you. You performed so very well. You held a lovely band sound and one can ask for little more than that. What a credit you are to your school. Well done.

You are all very dear to me and when I heard the special announcement coming over the PA on Saturday afternoon, I suddenly realised the magnitude of what you have done. You are the first School pipe band in the Southern Highlands, nobody can take that away from you and your performance was well worthy of the accolade. You did both Oxley and most of all yourselves, oh so proud.

Thank you too to all the parents who kicked in and created our on field branch of Oxley for the day. The catering was superb and relieved great pressure, enabling band members to relax between events. Thank you so much. True treasures Kate and Bronwyn for the organising of all the catering.

Thank you too, to the people who helped with band organisation. Mary Lou, very special, thank you. Rod Parker and Dave McKay for your help setting up our sound for the day. Col McKay for your organisation and training of the drum corps.

Thanks to each and every one in the band.

Drum Major, soon to be piper Cameron Regan

Oxley Banner Bearer, soon to be piper Hunter Ritchie.

Pipe Major Tom Tregenza. Professional job Tom.

Pipe Sergeant Connor Philpott-Tyson, Well done Connor, stand proud.

Pipers Toby O'Sullivan, Yanni Psarakis, Elena Parker, Ally Cavanagh, Cameron Wood, great job.

Drum Sergeant, Saxon Hilkemeijer, supported your pipe major very well indeed.

Drum Corporal, Hamish Tregenza, Great work Hamish.

Tenor drum, Saskia Hilkemeijer, Fabulous addition to our team Sas', welcome.

Bass Drum, James Blissett, First parade James and you carried us as if you have been doing so for years. Very big thank you.

Email sent by Oxley Pipe Band Master, Mr Rob Parker, to his wonderful Oxley Pipe Band after Brigadoon.

what have you made of yourself since

I completed the HSC in 2007, left for the UK on a gap year in 2008 and until 2017 I have been living in Wollongong, studying education and then was teaching at Illawarra Christian School. This year, my wife Bec and I are living in Cambodia, teaching at a school called Hope International School. The school is a non-profit missionary school that seeks to provide quality education to mainly missionary children whose parents are serving God in Cambodia.

What are your favourite things that have

Getting married to my wife Bec has to be one of the best things that I've done so far. Together, we served our church in Wollongong for many years together, and really enjoyed participating in helping maintain a culture there where serving each other was seen as the most important thing. I lead a 'home group' for many years, where we ate food together, read the bible and sought to encourage each other through the ups and downs of life. Deciding to move to Cambodia was a massive change for us, but I think that its been a reflection on the culture that our church created.

Were these things that during high school

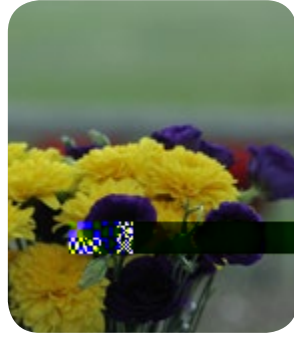
At Oxley, I was seen as the 'Christian guy' in my senior years. I didn't really know what the plans before me were. It is probably not surprising that I am serving in a missionary capacity, however I didn't for a second think I'd be living in Phnom Penh 10 years after school.

WHAT'S HAPPENING? IN THE WORLD...

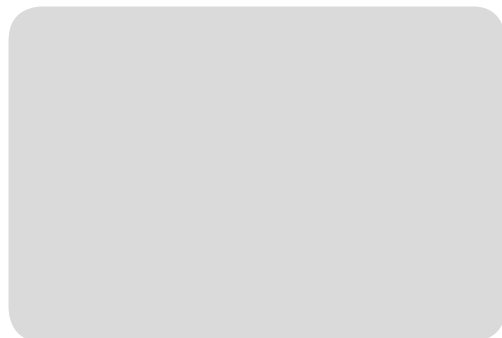
Integrity in the Cricket

As most of you will remember, a few weeks ago, Mr Parker discussed with us the importance of integrity. Although some may dismiss it as a useless topic used to fill in 30 minutes of a school assembly, it is imperative to realise just how vital our integrity is to us both as individuals and as a society. As Australians, we have witnessed many recent examples of our "responsible" organisations and leaders disgracing our nation and betraying our trust. A major example of this includes the Australian Cricket scandal, in which three players received periodic suspensions for

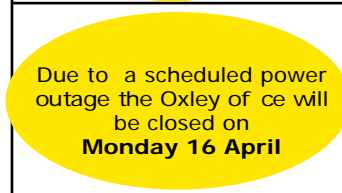




GALLERY



APRIL & MAY CALENDAR

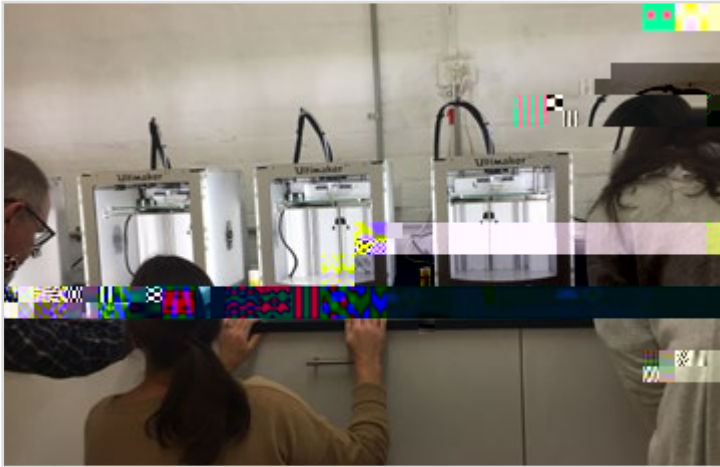
	Mon	16	Mon	23	Mon	30	
					Term 2 Commences Apeldoorn KSG Visit (all week)		
	Tue	17	Tue	24	Tue	01	
	Wed	18	Wed	25	Wed	02	
			ANZAC DAY				
Thu	12	Thu	19	Thu	26	Thu	03
Junior School Grandparents' Day End Term 1							
Fri	13	Fri	20	Fri	27	Fri	04
Sat	14	Sat	21	Sat	28	Sat	05
Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Silver/Gold hikes Drama Tour to Melbourne						ISA Round 1	
Sun	15	Sun	22	Sun	29	Sun	06
Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Silver/Gold hikes Drama Tour to Melbourne						Oxley Equestrian Day	

P & F NEWS



The Oxley P & F are seeking donations of baked goods - ideally cupcakes, biscuits, muffins and slices - to sell at the canteen on Equestrian Day - Sunday 6 May 2018. Baked goods can be dropped off on the day directly to Bong Bong Racecourse between 7.00am - 10.00am on the day - or on Saturday 5 May 2018 to the Pavilion at the College between 10.00am - 12.00pm. Please note we must adhere to the strict no nut policy on all goods. Our wonderful canteen is always a major draw card on the day. All Equestrian Canteen enquires to Kate Fair- midwifesremedy@gmail.com. All Oxley families are encouraged to come to the Equestrian Day even if you are not involved in the horse world. There is a fantastic community atmosphere at the Bong Bong racecourse and people can drop in for a short or long time.

NEWSFLASH



3D PRINTERS ARRIVE

A: I went in the Spiral New South Wales Championships which was held in