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**HEAD OF COLLEGE**

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**INSPIRATION**  
Netflix Dramas

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So many Christmas movies, so little time; Or so I thought. It was a haunting realisation that almost every Christmas movie is basically the same. Therefore, why not just summarise them all into one and utilise the extra time to make additional paper chains!

So um, spoiler alert. I guess.

A young female journalist living in New York City has to go to a semi-ambiguous town somewhere in the Midwest for an equally ambiguous reason; perhaps to write an article, to help with a Bakesale or for her hometown's annual Christmas nativity play. The town's name? Christmas. Begrudgingly, the protagonist (Let's call her "Holly" as the perfect festive double entendre) laments to her friend (Whom we do not see for the

Following a travel montage, Holly has arrived in the little town named Christmas. Holly ventures into the town's square (It should look like a little European market place) before Christmas." Holly rolls her eyes, "Someone is in need of some Christmas cheer!" with me and my family! As they say; there is no Christmas like a Christmas spent in a small ambiguous town coincidentally named Christmas!'

the house to a royalty free Christmas carol called "You Jingle my bells". "Wow, I guess I have really changed since moving to the big city." Holly says; the montage coming to the moment- they kiss. But then Holly (and the screenwriters) collectively realise "Oh my gosh; what about my Fiancé who hasn't been mentioned in the movie yet!". Holly begins to retreat back to her accommodation.

At the lowest point of her Character arc, Holly cries and laments the Holiday season when she passes a toy shop; inside a mother struggling to pay for her daughter's only Christmas gift says "I'm sorry sweetie; but this year-"when Holly interrupts "Don't worry, I've got it" handing the storekeeper her Mastercard. The mother and child thank Holly profusely and an old man who looks notably like Santa (Trust me, this happens in every movie) winks at her

Once back at her accommodation; Holly thinks about the true magic of Christmas, before answering another work call when she begins to hear the sound of royalty free family carolling at her door. "You didn't think we could spend Christmas without you?" he says. Holly leaps into his outstretched arms, throwing her phone into the snow.

"I love you Holly" he says

And they all live happily ever after.

By Pearl Bendle (Year 12)

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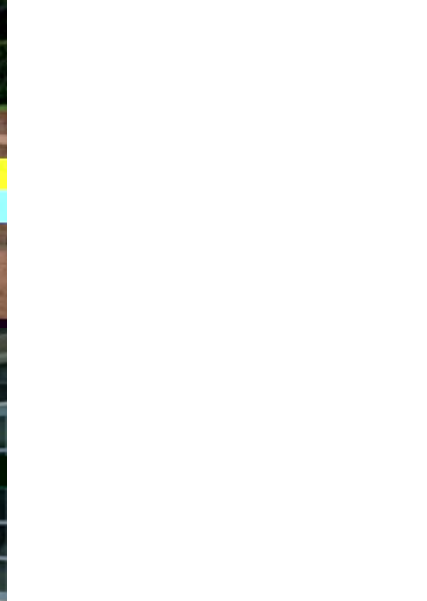
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CI Ym7c`Y[Y'6cUfX'cZ; cj Yfbcfgž  
Z`ck` ; cj Yfbcfgž DUfYbrgž  
Friends and Students both here  
and watching this Speech Day  
5ggYa V'm cb' Ncca " = c Yf' U'  
special welcome to our Year 12s

could have anticipated, as well as fostering resilience and independence in our young people. It is on this positive legacy of COVID-19 that I wish to focus today.

But 2020 has been a year in which you've heard a lot from me this year- at some stages on a daily basis, so

movement of experts to the forefront of public debate  
has been both surprising and delightful for someone who







# GOODBYE 2020

Summer has just begun and the sweet smell of gingerbread, mince pies and leg ham lingers in the air as the countdown to Christmas. Yet a YbWg' 5'' cZ h' g' V' jgg' bYgg' g' a cgh XYUb]h' mU' U[ a Ybhi cZ a m]a U[ ]bUh]cbÅ c' Vzi fgy'' FYU]gh]W' m= \Uj Y' Vzbgi a YX' Ub' 'unprecedented' amount of zooper doopers in this heat and the only smell in the air is that of recycled air-conditioned oxygen. Yet this being said, the magic of December has certainly arrived.

With the subtle hum of Bubl  ringing in our ears, it becomes apparent that soon we are to enter into a new year, crossing ci f' Ub[ Yfg' h' Uh] h' k' ]'' VYUh h' Y' Ugh' h' ci [ \z' k' Y' h' bX' h' c' X]ghfUvfi ourselves from this looming unknown by preparing for the festivities of the Chrissie season. Excuse my satirical tone, yet this distraction from the new year is most commonly seen through succumbing to the cleverly crafted pressures of capitalism. It's Vf]'' Ubh' -bghUbh[ fUh]UvWh]cb' ]g' Uh h' Y' VzfY cZ \i a Ub]mz UbX ='' ]\_Y'





Competitive chess has never been so appealing. Enter Beth Harmon (Anya Taylor-Joy), orphaned from childhood due to her mother's suicide and a neglectful father. At a dreary and regimented orphanage, she becomes addicted to horse tranquilliser medicine. She begins playing chess with the resident groundskeeper, Mr Shaibel (Bill Camp), and the rest is history. Based on the 2007 novel of the same name, the on-screen adaptation follows Beth as she experiences the trials and tribulations of American high school while simultaneously pursuing a serious career in competitive chess. The series, later on, employs feminist rhetoric to examine the social and political landscape of the 1960s, with great emphasis on the pre-conceived role and talent of women at the time, making it relevant in feminist discourse to this day due to its alluding to how Beth is perceived and received due to her gender, evident especially in the beginning of her career. Throughout the series Beth battles addiction, developing social dynamics, a co-dependant relationship with her adoptive mother during her rise to being the greatest player of her time. Both personally, and professionally, Beth dedicates her life to chess, due to this throughout the series, the viewer develops a greater understanding of the emotional pressures of the young star, contradictory to her glamorous fashion and generally immaculate appearance. We see her isolate herself from those who love her, give up chess completely, and then overcome these issues and 'get back on the board' through the power of human-will and tenacity.

Beth travels cross country through the United States to participate in the most important match of her career, to Russia. Through this, we see Beth develop meaningful relationships with fellow chess players and come to terms with her traumatising past; both growing as a player and as a human. Beth's journey is dramatically pleasing, teaches a valuable lesson on perseverance and following passions despite adversity.

By Ella Jackson (Year 12)

Not a hero nor a villain, how can we justify Mildred Ratched's bizarre yet valid morals? Sarah Paulson is brilliantly scintillating as Nurse Ratched in Ryan Murphy's (American Horror Story) prequel of One Flew Over Cuckoo's Nest, encapsulates the backstory to a psychiatric nurse and a mistress of manipulation. Mildred Ratched, inveigles her way into Dr Hanover's (Jon Jon Briones) hospital, Lucia Mental Hospital. Nurse Ratched secures her position by means of a little blackmail, importuning suicide, poisoning, trauma, and her daring lipstick. What her intent is, we do not know, but it is surely connected with the multiple murderer, Edmund Tolleson (Phyllis Kaitera).

*Dr Barnett, a former student of Oxley College during its* since 2012. He was educated at The University of Newcastle where he completed his medical degree. He has post graduate studies from the UK in Child Health and as a general practitioner. He joined the Bowral Street Medical Practice in 2002 where he is a Director.

these foundation principles, this heart of Oxley, remains

*In 2014, he completed his doctorate at the University of Wollongong, researching the use of e-learning for medical education in rural and regional areas. His PhD has developed into Medcast, a healthcare professional education company of which Dr Barnett is a founder and Director. He is also a Clinical Associate Professor at the* and continues to research and publish in Medical Education. He also serves on the NSW Council of The

*Dr Barnett is also a parent of three children attending Oxley College.*

*In May 2020, Dr Barnett became the Oxley College* retirement of the former Chairman, Mr Frank Conroy AM.

In the late 1960s, John Lennon sang 'There is nothing need is Love'

In the late 1980s, I came to a young school whose school song encouraged students to 'Fill the World with Love your whole life through'.

And in 2020, you will sing the same school song, in a school that still bases its teaching on Christian principles, and principles found in many faiths and philosophies, of love, and of kindness. And from these principles come courage and wisdom. At Oxley, students are encouraged to Be Kind. To Show Courage. To Seek Wisdom.

As one of the early Oxley students, and now as a parent encouraged and excited that, in an everchanging world,

We have been undergoing a prolonged period of Masterplanning over the past couple of years. Despite living in the country and being on a lovely big piece of land, we have had some issues which were hard to solve whilst also providing the numbers of classrooms and facilities for a thriving school. Fortunately, this has been solved by some creative thinking from our architects as well as the purchase of an adjacent property this year, 1 Hudson Street.

The details of this planning process will be clearer over the next 12 months, but after a recent presentation by the school architects, I am very encouraged to hear that there are well thought out solutions for classrooms, for the next few years. I'd like to thank Mr John Rapp and Mr Roderick McAllery on the Board Building Committee, as well as the Mrs Ethell and her Executive for all their work on this project.

From other independent schools. In line with other independent schools, Oxley was able to cut some costs and distribute these costs back to families in the midst of COVID, whilst also absorbing extra costs of cleaning and online infrastructure.

Our own micro-climate in the Southern Highlands is in line with our ultimate goal of capped places and maintaining the balance of a small, personal school, keep fees mid-range.

To meet this need, the College will continue to invest in infrastructure including high quality teaching spaces and play areas, to cater across the school. As a young school with little in the way of endowments (we don't have a large number of Old Oxleyan billionaires) we continue to come, primarily, from school fees.

government funding formula that comes into place from 2021 onwards, which is based on actual parent incomes, our government funding will reduce from current levels.

Over the past couple of years, Oxley has kept fee increases below state average, but in view of the above factors, this year we have agreed to a mid-range fee increase of 3%. We believe that at this level, we can maintain a strong school, whilst aiming to minimise a funding falls.

So Oxley's body is strong. Its mind – its teaching and learning, continues to excel. Each year the data we see across all learning abilities - from students receiving learning support, to students being extended in their learning, this year in particular, as we have all coped with COVID and the associated challenges.

5bX'gc'UbU'nā'hc'hY'YUfh'UbX'gci'cZ'hY'gW'cc'h'g'j'g'U'cZ'nci'hY'g'U'z'hY'g'ri'XYb'g'z'dUf'Yb'g'UbX'hY'Board. Thank you for your courage this year in a time of apprehension and global fear. Thank you for your wisdom in a time of international confusion: embracing (and surviving!) learning from home, social distancing and staying away from school when unwell. And thank you for your love and kindness to each other during a time of pressure and uncertainty - the Oxley community is in good health and ready (after a good holiday!) to embrace 2021. And with my medical hat on, and seeing the vaccine trial results and recently published government vaccine rollout plans, there is much to be hopeful for as we look towards next year.

So please have a happy and safe Christmas and New Year, see you in 2021!

7\Ujfa'Ub'cZ'hY'6cUfX'cZ;cj'Yfbcfg'8f'GH'd\Yb'Barnett's speech. Junior and Senior School Speech Days - Tuesday 8 December and Wednesday 9 December.

### Duke of Edinburgh International Award's Skill Development

Leah Halstead has been developing Photography as her skill for DOE. She has worked on a range of photos focusing on X] YfYbhiUgdYVtg cZ H\Y bUhi fU`k cF`X"

31 October 2020

**About the photos** - After an odd year H\Y`gdf]b[ `Uck Yfg`]b`a m[ UfXYb``][ \H\YbYX` the mood, literally. The azaleas, white roses, begonias, melastomes, "four o'clocks" and cherry blossoms, bud in late September and open in early October. My inspiration to take these photos was due to their overall beauty, in particular the azaleas because the bushes are located just beyond my bedroom window and I get to see them every day. Whilst taking

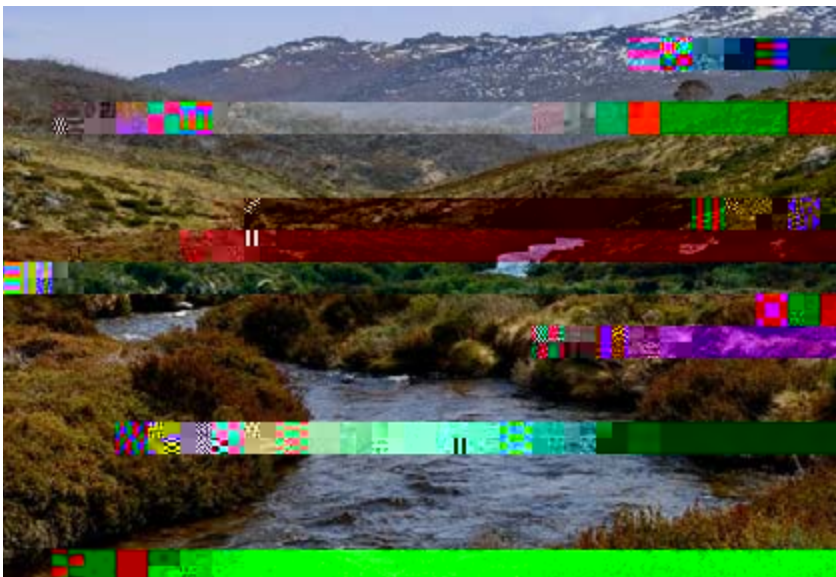
### The Scout ASM Award

2020 started with Alex Jurgs (Year 9) working towards achieving the pinnacle award in Scouts called the Australian Scout Medallion. Less than 1% of scouts achieve this award. Alex worked hard and consistently on this goal. He did several hikes culminating in leading a practice hike for six scouts with two adult leaders assessing his navigation and leadership skills to authorise him to lead an adventurous journey. Alex led U` [ fci d`cZ Uj`Y`GVti`hg`z`k`]H\ci`h`Ubm`UXi`hg`z`cb` a three day and two night journey spanning 30kms from Hornsby to Cowan railway stations in mid-October.

Over the past two months Alex has completed his last remaining outdoor skills badges (bushwalking, bushcraft and camping) and been awarded his Australian Scout Medallion. H\jg`jg`H\Y`Ufgh`Uk`UfXYX`]b`H\Y`Gci`H\Yfb` Highlands ever since its inception 14 years ago.

Thus far in his Scouting journey he has - hiked over 300kms, camped out over 75 nights, learnt and taught critical survival skills to others and led a small group of his peers on a three day hike over 30kms without any adult supervision. He's also made many life-long friends. But these are only the outward markings of his incredible ]bbYf`ci`fbYmtrc`]bVYUgYX`VtbUXYbWZ`a`Uhi`f]mz` resilience, through developing leadership, organisational, planning and interpersonal skills. It's these skills and abilities that Scouting promotes and that will help set Alex up for the rest of his life.

By Jenni Rees







I wanted to share with you some encouraging words to end the year. Mrs Muriel Stuart, a 95-year old member of the local community, who was the recipient of a Year 5 OLE Week service gift initiative run by Mr Jonathan Hunt, spoke with us about her amazing life and shared her wisdom. Her words have stayed with me this week, and I think might encourage us all. A student asked what her number one piece of advice for us was.

A i f]Y' k \c \Ug'j] YX h'fci [ \ k cf'X'k Ufg'z'dc'j'c'dUbXYa Jv'g' UbX'h'Y'; fYUh8YdfYgg]cb'c' YfYX'h'Jg

It's a wonderful time to be alive and there is so much to be grateful for. Everything passes, and even the dark times. It is a wonderful time to be alive and there is so much to be grateful for.

Take care and see you in 2021. By Katherine Halcrow, Head of Junior School











# NEWSFLASH

The start of the cricket season has begun, and Australia has made a cracking start by coming away with a victory, winning by 66 runs. Steve Smith and Aaron Finch both scored centuries, and Adam Zampa and Josh Hazlewood were key wicket takers. The second match was played on 29 November, with Australia coming away with another victory, winning by 51 runs. Steve Ga... bringing up Australia's runs. Moises Henriques also made a brilliant catch, getting Kohli out! However, unfortunately, early in the second innings, 8... against India.

The third match was played on 2 December, and unfortunately Australia... David Warner remained injured from the second match, and Patrick... against India.