



## HIGH SCHOOL PROSPECTUS 2026

Oakley House High School is an independent school, co-ed, English medium 'special needs' school geared towards supporting students who struggle to achieve their potential in a mainstream classroom. The school's aim is to provide a complete education sensitive to the academic, social and emotional needs of the students.

At Oakley House High School we aim to offer sympathetic assistance to students whose learning difficulties affect their ability to achieve their potential in a mainstream classroom, be it for academic, social or emotional reasons. Examples of difficulties include ASD, ADHD, dyslexia, processing and working memory challenges, anxiety, etc. Our priority is to build confidence and to develop a positive attitude to learning by providing specialised teaching within an atmosphere of support and understanding for each student's specific needs. We do this in an age-appropriate context of building independence, and of following the CAPS curriculum, our aim being for all students to achieve a National Senior Certificate pass at the end of Grade 12. The High School prides itself on being a safe space where students can thrive (instead of just survive) and where they can be happy. The school currently has an enrolment of around 100 students.

Oakley House High School's main offering is the **CAPS curriculum stream** offered to Grade 7-12 students. The school also offers a **General Education and Training Certificate (GETC)** stream for students who cannot cope with the pace and volume of Grade 8/9 CAPS. This stream caters for students between 13-18 years of age. The GETC is an important South African qualification that enables students to enter the vocational TVET system.

Not yet seen our website?

See <https://www.oakleyhouse.co.za/high.html> or scan our QR code.



## CRITERIA FOR ACCEPTANCE

Applicants should have the ability to access a busy school environment and the CAPS curriculum, and must have an assessment from an educational psychologist – not older than two years. As a small specialist school with a very limited number of places, we carefully assess the suitability of each student during a week-long observation period before making a decision as to whether we can offer a place. Observation also gives the child a chance to see if Oakley is where they want to be. A positive attitude towards learning and school plays a big role in deciding if Oakley is the right place for a child. The High School will not offer any student a place unless the staff feels confident that they have the capacity to help them. We also will not accept students who have emotional or behavioural problems which might seriously inhibit their progress or compromise the learning of others.

*Please contact the school for more detail on the Application process.*

## CAPS CURRICULUM

Oakley House High School follows the Revised National Curriculum (CAPS) for Grades 7-12.

### GRADES 7-9

The curriculum for Grades 7-9 is standard, except for Digital Technology which replaces conventional Technology.

### GRADES 10-12

The compulsory subjects are:

- English Home Language
- Afrikaans First Additional Language
- Mathematics OR Mathematics Literacy
- Life Orientation, incorporating Physical Education

In addition, students must choose three of the following elective subjects (*this list is subject to change and combination restrictions*):

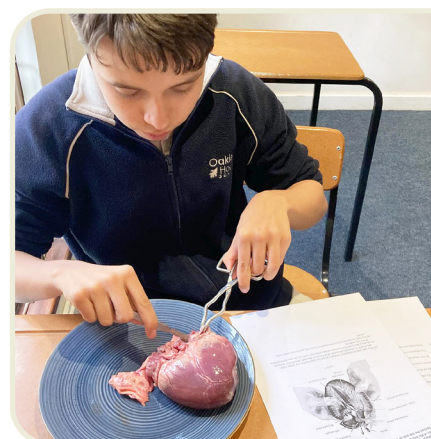
- |                                          |                                         |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| • Business Studies                       | • Tourism                               |
| • History                                | • Physical Sciences                     |
| • Life Sciences (Grade 10 and 11 only)   | • Visual Arts*                          |
| • Geography (Grade 10 and 11 only)       | • Engineering Graphics and Design (EGD) |
| • Computer Applications Technology (CAT) | • Design*                               |

*\*Conducted in the afternoons at the Peter Clarke Art Centre in Claremont. The school does not provide transport.*

With one exception, the school has had a 100% Matric pass rate since the first Matric group in 2017. Almost 60% of these are Bachelor's passes.

Oakley House has a strong commitment to blended learning and all students are required to have their own Chromebook at school daily. These are variously used to meet special needs requirements, to promote learning, as a platform for e-books, and as a personal organisation device. Please contact the school for device details **before** making any purchases.

We view reports as record of past achievement but also as the basis for setting new directions. Detailed reports are emailed to parents at the end of each term. The Term 1 report comes with a class teacher comment, while the Term 2 and 3 reports come with comprehensive subject comments.



## GETC CURRICULUM

The GETC operates **in levels** rather than Grades. Students interested in the GETC write placement tests to determine their appropriate starting level in the core areas of English and Mathematical Literacy (usually 1-3).

Students progress at their own pace, worked out for them by the school. Subjects are written-off as they are completed in exams that typically occur in June or November.

To get a GETC qualification, students must attain a minimum of 120 credits from Level 4 English, Mathematical Literacy and Life Orientation (all compulsory) and a choice of electives (currently Natural Science; Small, Medium and Micro-enterprise; Social Studies; and Economic and Management Sciences).

The curriculum is assessed by SACAI (South African Comprehensive Assessment Institute). Subjects are assessed through final examinations and an SBA portfolio of ongoing work (no tests).

The GETC is highly suitable for students wanting a **SAQA accredited qualification** but unable to cope with the CAPS demands. Because the GETC stream is individualised, students can enroll in the GETC stream at any point in the year. Students following a GETC take fewer subjects, write-off subjects as they are completed, and need offer only one Language (English).

Oakley House High is proud to be one of **the only centres offering the GETC to teenagers in a formal school setting**.

Please enquire for further details [infohigh@oakleyhouse.co.za](mailto:infohigh@oakleyhouse.co.za)

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- **Supervised Homework** – Oakley House High School offers supervised homework as follows:  
Mondays to Thursdays 15h00 - 16h00
- **Meridian** – Our lunchtime student enrichment programme takes place in Utility period on Wednesdays. Meridian consists of regular clubs and *ad hoc* workshops, speakers, etc.
- **Supplementary Learning (SL)** – Grade 12's need extra time to complete practical assessment tasks (PATs) in a number of subjects. The sessions take place after school for one hour and are compulsory. Grade 12s are also required to attend a June holiday subject programme.
- **Sport** – Oakley House offers Cross Country from the school premises as part of the Western Province League, and Badminton. Students are otherwise welcome to participate in sport at the nearby Bergvliet High School that offers a wide range of sporting disciplines.



## TEACHING AND SUPPORT

All staff are SACE registered and carefully selected for their expertise and ability to understand our students. Staff receive training and support in teaching students with specific learning difficulties.

Various models of in-class facilitation are available for students needing even further individual assistance. All facilitators are on the Oakley House staff. Facilitation is put in place by mutual agreement with parents and comes at additional cost.

Our Support Unit offers counselling sessions with our in-house registered counsellor to address the social, emotional and behavioural needs of our students. When necessary, we refer students off-campus for more specialised therapy. Fees and payments to referred providers is a private arrangement between therapist and parents.

Oakley House supports students' applications for the concessions relevant to their need. Concessions are officially for examinations and are mediated by an online platform. Concession support involving human readers/scribes/promoters is only done in exceptional cases and comes with an extra cost.

## SMALL CLASSES

Small classes are key to our successes with students. Small classes ensure individual attention.

## HOMEWORK AND STRUCTURING OF WORK

Homework reinforces the work done in class, it alerts the teacher to work that is not fully understood, it teaches independence and self-discipline, and it encourages retrieval practice, a factor known to support memory. Meaningful homework is an important part of educating the whole child. Attention is paid to overburdening students and no student is expected to do more than the daily stipulated maximum, provided they keep up with project work and assignments. Homework is posted online by staff. Parents are asked to support homework to the degree necessary.

Oakley House further assists students with structuring their time by breaking projects into smaller tasks with intermediate deadlines. A calendar of final deadlines is issued to students termly.

Tests are written in the CAPS stream on an ongoing basis. Test dates are published ahead of time in a termly test calendar. GETC students do not write tests for marks.

An examination booklet is issued to assist with exam preparation.

## LEADERSHIP

At Oakley House we believe in accountability, ownership and leadership as important life attributes and we have a number of structures promoting both personal and institutional leadership. The school has a House system and House heads are appointed to assist in managing the House structure and organising events. Each class has a Class Representative to act as their mouthpiece and Class Representatives meet for fortnightly discussions. The Oakley body also elects one or two School Leaders annually who assist in the running of the school.

More informally, we regularly hold community awareness and outreach projects where students can show themselves as leaders capable of making a difference.

## MEDICATION

The school takes the position that medication can be appropriate. The normal procedure is for any necessary medication to be given by parents at home. However, arrangements can be made for medication to be administered by the school, as in the administering of Ritalin for example. Where it is agreed that medication is kept and administered at Oakley House High School, a relating schedule will be completed and signed by the administering staff member.

## UNIFORM

Oakley House High School students wear a comfortable uniform. Certain items are provided by the school, with the majority of items being available online through the school uniform provider. There is no summer and winter uniform; students can choose which items are the most comfortable.

## SNACKS AND LUNCHES

We believe that a student's diet influences their ability to concentrate effectively. Oakley House has a tuck shop that currently operates once a week at break. The tuck shop is run by our vocational stream students. Pre-orders are available.

Being high school, students are responsible for their own food choices but sugary foods and drinks are not permitted. Students are encouraged to have a bottle of water with them each day.



## DISCIPLINE AND RECOGNITION

Students at Oakley House High School are made aware of the importance of good, well-mannered behaviour and we expect adherence to the standards that make our school a physically and emotionally safe environment and one that is conducive for learning. A code of conduct is signed by students and parents on entry to the school and every effort is made to reinforce whatever school rules are in place at the time.

The School subscribes to a corrective rather than punishment philosophy; it operates on systems of incentive/encouragement (Merit), notifications of potentially undesirable behaviour (Alerts) and and sanctions (Reflection/Suspension).

We believe that giving proactive direction to prevent inappropriate behaviour is more desirable and effective than after-the-fact responses. Students are taught that they have **control** over many things in life, but there are **consequences** where students choose not to respond to direction. Students are always encouraged to take **ownership** of their behaviour and to play a part in devising solutions to any problems that arise.

As part of our commitment to discipline and a safe environment, cellphones must be switched off and stashed during the school day. Chromebook screen-time is limited, and internet access is controlled.

## STATIONERY AND TEXTBOOKS

Parents are required to provide personal stationery items and textbooks, required for school. A stationery list is available on enrolment.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

The Oakley House High School calendar is similar to the WCED school calendar.

## SCHOOL HOURS

Monday to Thursday 07h50 - 14h45

Friday 07h50 - 13h00

Hours differ during exams. The school gates open at 07h00 daily. Please note that there is no aftercare and parents are asked to collect their children as soon as possible after their day is finished.

## SCHOOL FEES

The school charges a fee for observation. Students who enroll pay a once-off placement fee.

Please see the separate fees schedule for detail on fees and levies. If you refer to the fees schedule for the current calendar year, please allow for annual fees increases.

## NOTICE PERIOD

Should parents wish to withdraw their child from Oakley House High School, written notice must be given not later than the first week of the student's proposed final term, failing which the fees for the following term will be payable in full, whether or not the student returns to school.

*We reserve the right to make amendments to the prospectus from time to time, as and when the need arises.*

### HIGH SCHOOL

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Accreditation by Umalusi, Council for Quality Assurance in General and Further Education and Training – Accreditation Number 18 SCH01 00525