

4 December 2025

Transcript

Emily FitzSimons – Principal
Whispers Week 9, Term 4 2025

Hello everyone! As we approach the end the 2025 school year, it is a wonderful moment to pause and reflect on the energy, achievements and community spirit that have shaped Term 4.

We began the term by announcing our accomplished Student Executive for 2026, and soon after we gathered at Hamer Hall for Presentation Night to celebrate the many achievements of our students, and to acknowledge the Class of 2025. The calibre of performances on the evening was exceptional and showcased excellence in all its forms.

At the completion of their final classes, we honoured our graduating Class of 2025 and their families through a Valedictory Assembly, and, more recently at the conclusion of VCE exams, a special Valedictory Dinner at Hyatt Place. Both events served as a fitting end to their Overnewton journey. We also farewelled in excess of 100 families from our community this year, as their final child concludes their time with us. It's certainly a significant time for many and the turning of a small page in the story of our College.

Across the College, Final Assemblies have wrapped up a year of learning and connection for students from Prep to Year 11. Earlier in the term our Junior School Celebration of Learning again delighted families and filled students with pride as they shared the progress and passion behind their work. We also celebrated creativity at the Visual Arts Exhibition, enjoyed inspiring Performing Arts showcases, and welcomed our newest learners through our four-part Prep Transition Program. We now look forward to Step Up Day on Monday when students will meet their 2026 teachers and classmates, setting the tone for a positive start to the new school year.

This holiday season, generosity has been at the fore once more. Our Junior School Carol Service at St Paul's Cathedral brought the Christmas story to life, with the SRC proudly presenting gifts for Anglicare. Across both campuses, families contributed to Christmas food hampers, toy appeals and fundraising. These simple but powerful acts reflect our College Values so beautifully.

The Colour Run on 22 November was a magical day of high-energy – perhaps the thrill of the run, mixed with a little sugar from the snow cones and fairy floss! I thank our P&F, and a bevy of volunteers for making the event possible. They have raised a lot of money for our students and programs.



Overnewton
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A highlight this term was our inaugural Community Engagement Program Volunteer Appreciation Event, recognising parents who contributed extraordinary hours of service across camps, BBQs, stalls, excursions and more. Their dedication has enriched College life in countless ways, and we are deeply grateful. Our Parents & Friends Committee also held their AGM and elected 14 parents for the 2026 Committee. We look forward to working with them.

And speaking of our community, we have also loved welcoming Old Collegians back for their 30 Year and 1 Year reunions which are lovely reminders of the lifelong connections formed here.

It has certainly been an enormous term!

As we find ourselves entering the season of Advent, we are reminded of the hope, peace, joy and love at the heart of the Anglican faith.

Thank you to every student, family and staff member for helping make 2025 such a memorable year. I wish you a safe, restful holiday and a blessed Christmas.