Overnewton
Anglican Community College

8 October 2026

Transcript

Emily FitzSimons – Principal
Whispers Week 1, Term 4 2026

Hello everyone, and welcome to Term 4.

I hope you all enjoyed a well-deserved break and are looking forward to the celebrations and important moments that lie ahead this term.

We were delighted to welcome so many families to our Presentation Night on Tuesday at the Town Hall. It was an evening of celebrating our Class of 2026, enjoying fine performances from students and acknowledging their achievements. This year included two new College awards for students in Years 5-11, and so I congratulate the recipients of these prestigious awards.

We were pleased to acknowledge and thank our outgoing Chair of the Board, Mr John Durow. The Durow family have been stalwarts of the Overnewton community since 2008, including their children Hannah (Class of 2020) and Jack (Class of 2023). During his family's journey with us, John has given an extraordinary amount of his time and professional expertise to our Board and Committees. John first became a Finance Committee member in October 2013 and joined the Board in September 2014. He was appointed by the Board as their Chair in 2017. John, thank you for your diligent service and all that you and your family have brought to Overnewton.

At Presentation Night we also had the pleasure of welcoming our new Board Chair and Old Collegian, Ms Renee Bowman, along with our 2025 College Dux, Nathan Yuan.

Over the holidays, many of our students also returned from amazing experiences beyond the College.

Year 11 students enjoyed an action-packed adventure across New Zealand's North Island, with activities ranging from black-water rafting and skiing, to traditional cultural activities and a visit to the iconic Hobbiton.

Meanwhile, a small group of Year 9 students spent a week at Shepherdson College in Galiwin'ku, immersing themselves in the school and community life, and 'Learning on Country'. They embraced new and unique experiences, listened, learned, and built friendships and became increasingly connected within the community.

I thank the staff who travelled with our student groups and supported them along the way.

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During these first couple of weeks of the term, we look forward to joining in celebration of our Year 12s, with their final days of school, the Final Assembly and Valedictory Dinner all being important events for them and for our community.

And as we move towards the end of the year, families are invited to join us for our much-loved Junior School Carol Service at St Paul's Cathedral, as we celebrate the festive season while supporting Anglicare and families in need.

I look forward to the many opportunities to be together in the coming months, and I wish you a fantastic term ahead.