

5 February 2026

Transcript

Emily FitzSimons – Principal
Whispers Week 1, Term 1 2026

Hello and welcome to 2026!

The start of a new school year always brings a wonderful sense of energy and optimism, and it has been a joy to welcome back our students and staff across the College. To those families joining Overnewton for the first time, I extend an especially warm welcome. Community sits at the heart of who we are, and we hope you and your children quickly feel a strong sense of belonging.

No doubt there were a few nerves at home in the lead up to the first days for all our students, whether starting Prep for the first time, exploring a new campus, or launching into VCE. I've enjoyed seeing our students reconnecting with old friends, making new ones, and building relationships with their teachers. We have welcomed a number of new staff this year, and they, like our students, are excited for the year ahead.

It has been wonderful to see our campuses come alive again after the summer break. Although scenic, they feel a little empty without our young people. Our staff have worked tirelessly over the school holidays to ensure everything is ready, as we have eagerly awaited the return of our young people.

Over the weekend, Overnewton was proud to participate in the Midsumma Pride March in St Kilda. A group of 20 students, staff, and Old Collegians came together in a powerful show of pride, inclusion and solidarity. It was especially meaningful to have the Deputy Premier of Victoria, the Hon. Ben Carroll, our local Member for Niddrie, recognise and acknowledge the group as they crossed the finish line, taking the time to say hello and shake their hands as they passed by. The College even featured in the Herald Sun, recognising our participation in this important community event.



Overnewton
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Speaking of community events, I look forward to connecting with many of you at our refreshed Campus Parent Information Evenings in the coming weeks, with Canowindra families invited to join us on the 11th of February, and Yiramboi families on the 16th.

I also look forward to seeing many of you around the College throughout Term 1 as we share in what promises to be a positive and rewarding year ahead.