Overnewton
Anglican Community College

13 November 2026

Transcript

Tracy Fielder – Acting Principal
Whispers Week 6, Term 4 2026

Hello everyone,

As I come to the end of my first week as Acting Principal, I wanted to share some encouraging news with you.

Firstly, it's important to let you know that today's protected industrial stop work action went smoothly, and I'm grateful to our staff and families for their patience and understanding.

I'm also heartened to share that our staff have recognised the early progress we've been able to make together over these past four days and have voted not to proceed with the work stoppage that was planned for Monday.

We have also been able to bring forward and extend our next bargaining meeting to a four hour session to continue working on the outstanding matters together. Currently, we have advised the IEU that we are available to meet for this extended time on Tuesday morning, and we hope to have confirmation from them this afternoon to lock this in. I'm pleased that we can engage in an extended session to genuinely collaborate together with the IEU and our bargaining team.

I sincerely thank our staff for this. I know there remains a great deal of work ahead of us, and I don't take for granted the trust they're placing in me and the Board as we work towards reaching an agreement quickly.

I can also share that we have now received confirmation that the Fair Work Commission has scheduled our matter for 11 December. While this provides an important next step if needed, I'm hopeful that the progress we're making will mean that we can reach an agreement well before then. That is certainly my aim, and I'm determined to keep building on the momentum we have started this week.

I know in this short period of time as Acting Principal you have already heard me say this a number of times, and I will continue to say this without apology, because I believe it in my heart; our staff are what make Overnewton the special place it is. I know how much our families value them, and my admiration and gratitude for their dedication and care is equally as strong.

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We are incredibly lucky to have the people we do at Overnewton, and that's something I will never lose sight of. I believe our College values should be reflected in how we treat one another, especially when things are difficult. This is what will guide me through these negotiations and every decision I make as Acting Principal.

I also want to acknowledge the many messages families have sent to the Principal's Office over the past several weeks, and that many of your questions remain unanswered. I've committed to being open and transparent with you, and I think it's important that we now make time to come together and have an honest conversation.

So I'd like to personally invite you to a Parent Community Forum on Thursday evening.

Members of our College Board and I will be there to share more information about the negotiations, including some of the information we've provided to the bargaining team, and importantly, to hear from you and answer your questions.

Some questions are more difficult than others and we may not have every answer on the night, but we will try our best to respond to each. There will no doubt be different views in the room, and that's okay. All I ask is that we treat one another with kindness and respect as that's something I know we all value as a community.

What we all have in common is that we all care deeply about this College, and I believe we all want the same thing, which is to see Overnewton move forward and be the amazing place we know it can be for our staff, our families and, most importantly, our students.

The forum will be held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 19 November in the Sports Hall at our Yirramboi Campus.

I hope you can join us and I look forward to seeing you there.

Coming together as a community is important, and we have some lovely events happening across the College in the coming weeks that I'd also like to share with you.

On Friday 27 November, I'd love to see as many families as possible at our inaugural Twilight Christmas Carols and Junior School Art Exhibition at Canowindra.

The Twilight Christmas Carols is a new Parents & Friends Association event, made possible by our volunteers as well as our Performing Arts and instrumental staff who are all giving so generously of their time to bring this event to life.

Our younger students will be singing Christmas carols alongside some of our choirs, string groups and College ensembles. It will be a lovely opportunity to enjoy some festive music and spend time together as a community.

Before the carols, we'll also be celebrating the creativity of our Prep to Year 4 students at the Junior School Art Exhibition.

This year, there's something extra special, with each class contributing a collaborative artwork to our Junior School Art Auction. All proceeds will go to Anglicare, and I encourage you to come along, admire the student's work and maybe even place a bid!

These are the moments that remind me why Overnewton is such a special place. The joy of seeing our students shine, the incredible work of our staff and the generosity of the families and volunteers who make it all possible.

I hope you'll join us, not only to support our students but to enjoy an opportunity to come together.

Lastly, I would like to sincerely thank those of you who spoken to me personally or sent an email with such positive words of encouragement. I have been overwhelmed by the beautiful messages and words of support. If you have sent me an email, know that I have read it and how deeply I appreciate the time you have taken to write to me. I will respond to each of you in the coming days.

Thank you for your support and I hope to see you soon.