

### The College in the Global iCommunity.

More than ever before our community is inextricably linked to the global community. Technology has made the world a smaller place; communications are sophisticated and everyone is connected.

At Overnewton we embrace the online world with our theme of *iRespect* in 2013, using technology to strengthen our community and reach out to others. In our tenth year of the association with the orphanage at Chibobo, we correspond by email with Stavious and the films that this year's group brought back from Zambia have really outlined the nature of the environment and the enhancement of their living conditions over the last decade.

To mark the completion of ten years' association between the College and the Chibobo Orphanage in Zambia, a fundraising dinner took place in the Richardson Centre and the entire group from this year's tour party contributed to the evening through speeches and videos that described their visit and the circumstances of the community at Chibobo.

The achievements that have arisen from the association between the College and the Chibobo community are outstanding. The most recent development, the Year 10-12 High School, is underway and will make a huge difference to the older children. The additional support of the St Mary's Church in Sunbury is also a most significant factor in the development of Chibobo. Mike Lampard is a huge influence in combining the talents of the church and school communities to produce fantastic outcomes.

That dinner alone raised over \$7,300 and 100% of this money contributes directly to the Chibobo community.

Later in the year, our support went out to those people devastated by the typhoon in the Philippines and our newly formed 2014 student executive took great initiative in organising activities that also raised nearly \$7000 for UNICEF to use in support of children affected by this disaster.

In addition to supporting communities through community service, students were also deeply exposed to community issues in performing arts. The College musical, *Hairspray*, was a brilliantly produced, directed and performed musical set in 1960s America that explored deep themes of racial segregation, body image

and professional jealousy, whilst maintaining a joyful representation of teenage love and against-the-odds spirit. It was entertaining, funny and polished. Dances, songs and music were performed to a professional standard, such that I left the venue enormously proud of our students and staff.

*Hairspray* was the result of hours of work, particularly on evenings, on weekends and during the term breaks, and was worth every minute of effort. It was an outstanding school production. I have seen many school and professional productions over 25 years and our 2013 production stands with the best of them.

In sport, we also took the chance to extend our community to link with others in the ACS v Ballarat Association of Schools (BAS) carnival late in Term 3. It is a great recognition of three Overnewton coaches that they were selected to coach the ACS representative teams, which is the coach's equivalent to being selected as a player. The ACS teams performed well against their BAS counterparts in closely contested competitions.

The partnership between parents, students and staff is central to the culture of Overnewton. This was fully realised in Term 4 when the Digital Dialogues presentation took place in the Sports Hall. A team of parents, students and staff, led by the College Head of Student Services, Tim Jezard, and parents Melissa Juzva and Pauline Hobbs, produced a highly innovative discussion about the Digital World, in which an audience of students and their parents bridged generational dogmas and openly discussed their use of, and views about, digital technology. Several of the activities were run by a team of students from Junior, Middle and Senior Schools and Canowindra. The evening represented the Overnewton community as leading the thinking about dealing with the good, the bad and the ugly of the online world.

At the College, we seek to expose our students to the wider community over the course of their thirteen year school journey and help them progress from a safe, yet challenging, learning environment to being resilient, respectful and skilled members of the global world. Good use of current technology and exposure to a wide range of curricular and co-curricular experiences are central to the development of Overnewton students.

**Rob Huntington,**  
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