

‘*We Can Make The Change*’ was our theme for 2014 and how delighted I was to see it embraced in so many areas of the College.

**Where did some of those changes occur?**

We had our strongest ever set of NAPLAN results in 2014, exceeding State results in all categories of Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. This places our students well in advance of local schools and the gap is widening.

One can’t make drastic changes in the four months prior to the NAPLAN tests and affect the outcome. Our strengthening results are the outcome of many years of excellent teaching and preparation, most particularly the work of our Prep to Year 2 teachers.

At the 2014 Presentation Night we showcased the terrific achievements of our students across so many interschool

competitions; debating, public speaking, languages, UNSW, to name a few. These competitions were a test of students’ academic ability as well as their presentation skills. The students can only experience success if they have strong literacy, numeracy, language or scientific understanding.

As a College, we put enormous investment into the VCE as the vehicle by which our students move from school into tertiary study – the majority attending major universities – and, from there, into careers that reflect their educational journey.

I am proud that the majority of our Year 12s have been with us since Junior School and that we don’t

‘buy in’ academically gifted children close to the end of their schooling in order to inflate our results. Nor do we block access to VCE because we are concerned that results may diminish our public standing. Instead we encourage every student who wants to sit his or her VCE to do so.

We celebrate the increasing number of high 90s that our students are achieving. Equally we celebrate an ATAR of 50 if that is a great result for that particular student.

Given the mixed ability of the classrooms across our College, I am incredibly proud of our teaching staff, who continually strive to challenge their own teaching practices in order to get the best out of each student that comes before them. I thank them sincerely for their work in this regard.

Academically we are clearly ‘*making a change*’ in the lives of Overnewton students and this is terrific.

In 2014, we had our best year to date in the Year 5 and 6 sporting program and also with ACS sport. In a school that does not have compulsory team training, it is outstanding to see how well we have performed in the sporting arena and the continual changes that are being made in this regard.

Our Performing Arts went from strength to strength with the world premier of a school presenting *The Boy From Oz*. The accolades received during the

