

2015 has been characterised by the quality of our students’ performances when they were measured against others and when they present themselves on the local and worldwide stage.

Analysis of student NAPLAN results over the last five years clearly shows that Overnewton student mean improvement between Years 3 and 9 outstrips that of students from most government, Catholic and independent schools in our area. In addition, outstanding results by our current Year 3s reflect an increasingly higher level that our students are already at by the time they reach that stage of their education. Invariably this all flows through to strong VCE results at Years 11 and 12.

In support of student learning, a significant change in teaching and learning took place in 2015 with the introduction of the 1:1 iPad program for students in Years 3-8 and MacBooks from Year 9. This has made a significant difference to the manner by which students present work and how efficiently they can access online resources. Student and teacher work in the classroom is now mirroring more closely the work of people in business and at home. Our technology use also enables greater efficiencies in student assessment; an excellent example of this is student PAT testing; this is now completed online and provides almost instant feedback to staff when, previously, analysis of paper based responses by ACER took weeks.

Over the Easter break, thirty Year 9–12 students and four staff spent a fortnight in the USA on the Performing Arts Tour and had a fantastic time. They were involved in elite dance and acting classes in New York and Los Angeles, which was a tremendous learning experience for our students, many of whom are at the top level of competence in their field in Melbourne. They also demonstrated the ability to travel around Manhattan and parts of Los Angeles independently and show the initiative we would expect from highly competent young adults. They were confident travellers who were able to cope with minor issues without having to ring home and get help from their parents, and understood that people in other countries might have a

different culture but are essentially the same as us. Unsurprisingly, many of the students on the Performing Arts Tour were also in the College Musical *High School Musical*, later in the year.

Overnewton continues to compete on the wider stage in sport with great success. A good crowd of students, staff and parents were in attendance at our first ever Association of Co-educational Schools (ACS) night football game; it was also a good opportunity to showcase the Fair Go Sport initiative as a significant College and ACS program. The College also became part of the Melbourne City College of Football program, which is an exciting opportunity for our soccer players. This new relationship reflects our outstanding success in the world game at both the ACS and statewide levels and there was a great deal of interest from College families at the official launch of the program in November.

Of all public events our students participate in, debating and public speaking are, perhaps, the greatest tests of our students’ public face. It has been fantastic to see or hear about our students participating in activities such as the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) Plain English Speaking Award, the ACS Public Speaking Competition and the Debating Association of Victoria (DAV) Debating and Public Speaking Competition. A particular highlight was the Senior Division of the DAV Public Speaking Competition in which our students won both the Year 12 and Year 11 categories in this statewide competition. This is the pinnacle public speaking event for Victorian schools.

