

The theme for 2016 was ‘We rise by lifting others’. How can it not be inspiring, humbling and motivating to belong to a community that is unique in its commitment to the education of the children of this College, as well as to each other. Everyone in this community wants our students to excel both in their studies and as empowered, thoughtful, community-minded citizens, and it is wonderful to see continued growth in all of these areas.

I love hearing the many accolades about the caring, giving and kind ways of Overnewton students, both past and present.



Our students readily lift others by participating in their communities - attending Sunday School classes, working at the Sunshine Harvester school, coaching sporting teams, working in soup kitchens or going to Chibobo. I am certain that they undertake these endeavours for noble reasons, rather than because of an award they may receive or a line on a university application. However, I would like to consider

the way we acknowledge community service in order to ensure that we continue to care for caring’s sake, not because of what we will receive.

‘We rise by lifting others’... our theme’s emphasis is on the importance of lifting others for their wellbeing, not our own; that is, any benefit we may receive is as a result of caring for caring’s sake. We become better people for it and a far stronger community.

In 2016, a lot of work took place on a new College strategic plan and this highlighted the core values that we hold dear as a College. By far the greatest of these is our commitment to the idea of a community.



In 2016, as in every year, our teachers cared for and guided their students. At the start of the year, they introduced the curriculum, giving the students advice, tips and directed support with their learning. But as the year progressed, and student skills developed such that they gained mastery of their work, the teachers were able to step back a little to allow each student to blossom with their own independent learning. Of course teachers still watched their students closely, but students then knew that they were far more able to work independently, which ultimately strengthened their learning.



It is the desire of every teacher for students to achieve to their best and, in 2016, we achieved our strongest set of NAPLAN results in the history of the College. The resulting value add to students’ learning as they progress from year to year - as indicated by their NAPLAN results - grew too. Additionally, we saw our greatest number of credits, distinctions and high distinctions in the external Maths, Science, English and LOTE academic competitions.

Equally, it was a delight to see the number of Middle School students who eagerly joined our debating and public speaking programs. We enjoyed wonderful success in both of those areas in 2016, with one of our students winning the Legacy National Public Speaking competition and another receiving a silver medal in the Voice State Final – a UN Youth Australia public speaking competition.

These are all wonderful achievements and arise from the passion that the teachers have to help students achieve to the best of their ability.