



COLLEGE

27 January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year, I hope you have all enjoyed a fun and restful summer break.

Centered on the person of Jesus Christ, our community is built on faith, nourished by the Eucharist and seeks to live and share Gospel values in word and deed.

Recently, one of our teachers informed us of their decision to undertake a transition and identify in the future as a female. Since the teacher informed the school, we have been committed to protecting their privacy in balance with the common good of our Catholic school community. For this reason, we have chosen not to include the teacher's name in e-mail or other communications that are easily disseminated.

We have also sought to respond in a manner consistent with Catholic values and our school identity and have been mindful of our broader mission of teaching and sharing our Catholic faith.

We held discussions as a leadership team and consulted Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) and have now reached a point where it is appropriate to communicate with you, in as transparent a way as possible. Central to our discussions was the Catholic belief that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society, and in accordance with that belief, we have resolved to continue to welcome the teacher as a valued member of our community.

Our faith tradition values the gift of the human person, and the distinctions between women and men, and we acknowledge the tension this news touches upon. We wish to be sensitive to members of our community who will feel this tension the most and confirm that our shared Catholic mission has not changed, nor has our commitment to Catholic teaching.

We appreciate there will be diverse views within our community regarding this and that some may value assistance processing their thoughts. We will be holding separate assemblies for Years 11-12 and Years 7-10 on Monday and Tuesday respectively to inform students in age-appropriate ways. As the teacher has requested they be referred to by a different name from this point onwards, it is appropriate we offer guidance to our students, and space for them to respectfully talk about this change.

The [REDACTED] College counselling service and pastoral services will be available within usual school operating hours and will be made accessible to the entire community. My door is always open for those who wish to discuss this matter further. Please call my office to arrange a time or e-mail me directly at principal@[REDACTED]vic.edu.au.

I hope this will be an opportunity for our school family to show an utmost respect for individuals, including the staff member concerned, and all our extraordinary students,

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Principal

PO Box [REDACTED], VIC

COLLEGE [REDACTED]

FAX [REDACTED]