



Friday 21 February 2020

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School,

I am writing to update you on the tragic incident that resulted in the death of a Year 12 student in Cuthbertson House on Thursday morning.

I have been in Canberra today meeting with the boy's family who are grappling with the devastating loss of their much-loved son and brother. It was an extraordinary privilege for me to represent our School. My presence was strengthened by the love and kindness of our community. Thank you all. Your messages have been sustaining.

The sense of loss these past two days has been overwhelming and our community is hurting deeply. I spent time with the boys from Cuthbertson House yesterday, then spoke to our Prefect group and addressed a special Senior School assembly. The incident was also discussed in an age appropriate way with our Middle School students at yesterday afternoon's assembly and during last night's Chapel Service at Timbertop. We held an additional Senior School assembly this afternoon to update our learners and remind them of our love, as well as specific strategies of support.

As ever, the health and welfare of our students, staff and their families remain of paramount concern. Our team of GGS psychologists has been joined by our Chaplains, as well as additional external counselling expertise to guide our students and staff as we navigate this tragedy together.

With such tragic circumstances, none of us are aware of each family's own background and experiences. We continue to provide opportunities for you to spend time with your child as required; please remain vigilant with regular leave protocols. As ever, please contact your child's Head of House, Head of Unit or classroom teacher should you believe we need to be aware of any additional pastoral information at this time.

The boy's family welcome receiving any messages from students, families and staff. Please address your correspondence:

C/- Rebecca Cody
Geelong Grammar School

Messages will be forwarded to the family confidentially and sensitively.

Please continue to visit the [Recent Statements page](#) of the School website for updates and resources to assist you and your families.

We will continue to wrap one another in love and courage across the days, weeks and months ahead.

With blessings,


Rebecca Cody
Principal

Principal's Study

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