



Thursday 22 March 2018

**TRANSCRIPT OF VIDEO MESSAGE FROM
THE CHAIRMAN OF SCHOOL COUNCIL, MR ROBERT UTTER**

The scenes that have unfolded at Trinity Grammar School this past fortnight have been nothing less than extraordinary.

For various reasons and motivations - and in various ways - our school has managed to bring attention to itself for all the wrong reasons. This is extremely unfortunate and disappointing.

It saddens me to say that **never** in my 30 plus years as a Trinity parent and school council servant have I observed the sort of behaviours we have seen in the past two weeks; behaviour that has only served to bring the proud name and heritage of Trinity Grammar into disrepute.

As chairman of our fine school, I implore everyone to take a breath, find calm and act with respect.

I would also encourage people to reflect on the school's values, which include truth, humility, integrity and courage.

The passion and energy we have for our great school has always been obvious but our current actions must be channelled into coming together respectfully and responsibly so, together, we can resolve some really important matters.

Your school council, a group of volunteers, who have a strong personal connection to the school – past or present - have established a strong and sensible strategy to help navigate the complex priorities currently before us.

The major undertakings are:

1. the commissioning of an independent review on the dismissal of the deputy headmaster;
2. the commitment to a deep and wide, effective and efficient consultation process; and
3. the establishment of a comprehensive governance review that takes in the school's constitution and the composition of the school council.

In amongst the urgency to get this work underway, your school council has met daily to consider feedback, take advice and move in the best interests of current and future students of Trinity Grammar.

During this period, we have seen great servants of the school's board take difficult decisions to depart.

With three council members resigning last week, your school council was very close to falling below the constitutional quorum that allows it to operate as necessary.

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This means that in the event of any further resignations, Trinity Grammar would have no choice but to move into administration, with a court appointing a new administrator to the school.

As this has become apparent, school council is of the view that administration would have negative consequences for the school and should be avoided at all costs.

With this in mind, and in light of current circumstances, we have resolved to stay on council for such time as there is an orderly transition to a refreshed council membership.

In a nutshell, this means that current school council members will continue to serve, guide and govern the school and, in time, transition off school council.

This decision, which we feel is in the best interests of Trinity Grammar's future, will give rise to an opportunity for other people to nominate to serve on school council.

At this point, it's important to note that to serve on Trinity's council, appropriate qualifications and skill-sets are required and aspiring council members need to possess the character and temperament to act collaboratively and confidentially with other council members.

Under the school's constitution, council includes nominees from the Archbishop, the school's Parents Association, the Old Trinity Grammarians Association and there up to 12 places on school council.

My council colleagues are drawing up an orderly nomination process that would see suitably qualified people apply for future school council membership.

This will be communicated in due course, but not before the independent deputy headmaster dismissal inquiry is complete.

To better understand the new council application and selection process, and to learn more about the work being carried out at the moment, visit the page on your screen now.

With just a little more than a week before the end of Term 1, I encourage everyone in the Trinity community to find it in themselves to support each other. We need to support our Headmaster Michael Davies and his terrific team of teachers so they can remain focussed on helping our students do their best.

After all, that's why we're all here.

Thank you for your time.