

28 March 2018

Dear Trinity Grammar School Community

As we reach the final week of Term 1, I wanted to update you on work we are carrying out in relation to a range of matters at the school.

Consultation and engagement with the Trinity Community

Over past weeks, School Council has met with a number of people across our community. Several discussions have also been had where School Council has listened and helped people understand the actions we are taking.

This engagement does not preclude commitment to the school-wide consultation process, which has started this week. Over the coming weeks, school groups will have opportunity to contribute their voice to current and future operations of the school, as well as discuss the ongoing governance of Trinity Grammar School.

The school consultation, led by an independent external facilitator, will include a representative from the following groups:

- Students
- Parents' Association
- General parent group
- Staff association
- Old Trinity Grammarians Association
- Headmaster
- Past chairs of Council
- Council

This consultation will be deep and wide, but also efficient and effective. It's hoped people will engage in good faith and put trust in the process.

In recent days, School Council and the OTGA have met to organise a unified way forward that considers the best interests of the school. During these meetings a joint statement was prepared. It reads:

“After mutual discussion Robert Utter, Chairman of School Council and David Baumgartner, President of the OTGA are pleased to confirm that moving forward, they will work cooperatively with each other and with other school stakeholders in the interests of students, staff and parents to put in place the Council's membership transition plan.”

School Council transition and nomination process

Last Friday, School Council announced that current council members will continue to serve, guide and govern the school but, over 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.

TRINITY GRAMMAR SCHOOL, KEW

A plan for this transition and the short-term governance of the school is being developed and will be communicated to school groups at the earliest opportunity.

We anticipate that this process will be well underway in the first few weeks after the Easter break and completed in Term 2.

Broader school governance review

The recently announced school governance review, which includes Trinity's constitution and composition of council is also being developed.

A comprehensive exercise that may take many months, the governance review requires a full scope to be drawn up before an independent expert in governance and administration is appointed.

The scope is being drafted at the moment and governance experts are being identified.

Commentary in editorial and social media channels

It's unfortunate that external interest in the issues we are trying to resolve is being perpetuated by running public commentary from people in our community.

It's worse when some of those comments and actions are inaccurate and/or unsavoury.

Hereon, we all have opportunity to work in the best interests of the school by engaging in a respectful, measured, informed and internal way.

Independent review of Deputy Headmaster dismissal

Independent examiners Mr Raymond Finkelstein AO QC and Ms Renee Enbom have begun their inquiry. While it's not known when they will complete their review, the school has requested they work as quickly as possible and to a timeframe of weeks, not months, without compromising the integrity of the review.

I hope this update helps to keep you informed on matters being worked on at the moment. We will continue to provide updates over the coming weeks.

On behalf of your School Council, I wish everyone in our community a happy, restful and safe Easter. I hope students, staff and parents are able to find the time to take a well-earned break, enabling a refreshed return for Term 2.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Utter', written in a cursive style.

Robert Utter
Chairman of Council