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28 June 2021

Dear College Community member,

On Friday 25 June Mark Irwin, former Director of Music at The Geelong College was found guilty in the Geelong County Court of sexual abuse of a student of the College, approximately 20 years ago. The College has assisted the police with the investigation, and immediately suspended Mr Irwin's employment on learning of the allegations. Mr Irwin has not been employed here since December 2018.

We are truly sorry as we recognise the harmful effects upon our former students of sexual abuse during our care, and we continue our committed endeavours to do all that we can to support each survivor of abuse, and to prevent any recurrence on our watch.

The Geelong College is committed to ensuring that the children in our care are safe and well cared for. For several years, all of our staff have undergone extensive child protection training and education, over and above the mandated child safety policies and procedures.

The College continues to ask any former students who may have been affected by abuse here to seek assistance through our expert Independent Facilitator, Pauline Ryan, on 1800 260 038, or to contact me directly through the school on (03) 5226 3107 or contact the Geelong Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team on (03) 5246 8101. Their enquiry will be welcomed and respected.

Regards

Dr P Miller
Principal

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