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4 October 2021

Dear College Community

On Friday 1 October the Supreme Court awarded a former student of The Geelong College damages for historic sexual abuse that occurred whilst in our care during the late 1980s. Whilst the perpetrator was not a member of staff, as an institution we failed this student and express our most sincere apologies for these failings.

On an unrelated matter, we understand that former Director of Music, Mark Irwin, will be sentenced on Tuesday 12 October. Mr Irwin was found guilty earlier this year of sexual abuse of a student of the College, approximately 20 years ago.

We are truly sorry for the abuse suffered by victims of these men, and to others who had harm inflicted upon them whilst in our care. We recognise the harmful effects of sexual abuse upon our former students and continue our committed endeavours to support each survivor of abuse with care, sensitivity and dignity, and in the manner most appropriate for their healing.

The Geelong College reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that every child in our care is safe and well cared for. For several years, we have been working with staff and our community, as well as students, to ensure a child safe culture prevails and to ensure such incidents do not happen again. All of our staff have undergone extensive child protection training and education, over and above the mandated child safety policies and procedures.

Prof Richard Page
Chair, The Geelong College Council

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