



SALESIAN COLLEGE

'RUPERTSWOOD'

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To all the members of the Salesian College and wider Sunbury Communities, including those victims and survivors of child sexual abuse.

At our College, we pride ourselves on the rich tradition and diverse history that makes the College what it is today. However, along with the positives that create the school community we know and cherish, we acknowledge that there was a period in our past when reprehensible actions occurred here.

Recently, the media has been filled with cases from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. This has led to many of these crimes being revisited, confronting students and people within our community with facts that are truly shocking and devastating to them, as this kind of abuse is unfathomable.

As a school we offer our most heartfelt sympathies to those individuals who, instead of being protected like they should have, were grossly mistreated as a result of neglected trust. We truly cannot comprehend the grief and pain that those individuals, their peers and families, as well as the wider community felt. We believe that these actions are something that should never be excused or denied. At the same time, we applaud the strength and courage of all victims of child abuse who have come forward to assist the Royal Commission.

As a show of our support as a College community, we have created our very own "Loud Fence". Here, students, teachers and members of the wider community can tie brightly coloured ribbons onto a fence to show that we stand in solidarity with the victims and survivors of child abuse. We are aware that this gesture does not fix or correct the wrongdoings of the past. Instead, it represents the will of the current community of Salesian College to offer its sympathies, prayers and thoughts to the victims of these crimes. This fence is also a symbolic acknowledgment that Salesian College is a community that is willing to recognize its damaged past, to apologize for the pain and grief suffered, and to assist in the healing process that is currently underway.

This issue, although one of many within this modern world, is one of a very personal nature to our College. We believe that by discussing these issues out in the open, we can maintain the safe community that is provided for all of our current and future students and staff.

Yours Sincerely,

Katelyn Pinto and Matthew Harris
Salesian College Captains, 2015