



Mary MacKillop College South Gippsland

Incorporating the Parishes of Foster, Wonthaggi, Cowes, Korumburra and Leongatha

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Sunday 5 May 2019

Dear Parents and families,

It is with great sadness that I inform you of some very sad news for our College. One of our students was killed in a car accident on Saturday morning.

Campbell Ion from year 10C was travelling to play football for Dalyston against Koo Wee Rup with his brother Lucas, also a former student of Mary MacKillop, who was driving.

Their car crashed at the Anderson roundabout sometime before 9am Saturday. Sadly, Campbell was pronounced dead at the scene. Lucas has been airlifted to hospital in Melbourne and remains listed as in critical condition.

I have spoken briefly on behalf of the College community to Campbell's Mother and grandfather to express our condolences and support.

Campbell was an energetic and cheerful young man, well-liked by both his peers and teachers. He will be greatly missed. Our hearts go out to his family at this very sad time.

On Monday the whole College will gather in Pioneer Hall at 9am to pray for Campbell, Lucas and their family and to explain arrangements for the day, families are welcome to attend. The Catholic Education Office and neighbouring schools are sending additional experienced counsellors to assist as needed, these will be available throughout the day. After the whole school assembly, Year 10 will gather in the Chapel for support and prayer. The Chapel will be available all day for quiet reflection and counsellors will be in attendance to support those who need it.

Grief affects each of us in different ways. It may re-ignite previous experiences and emotions, even without our awareness of why we are feeling that way. Others may feel numb, or angry. It is important to allow others to react in their way and to acknowledge that we too are affected. There is no "correct" way to respond.

If any families elect to care for your children at home on Monday we ask that you be sure to telephone the College office to inform us. We will be doubly vigilant tomorrow to make sure all students, particularly year ten, are accounted for.

At such times our Faith in the risen Jesus sustains us. We pray for Lucas, for their family, and we pray especially for Campbell:

Saints of God, come to his aid!
Come to meet him, angels of the Lord!
May Christ, who called you, take you to Himself;
And may angels lead you to Abraham's side.

Yours faithfully,

David Leslie
Principal