



P.O. Box 174,
Summer Hill,
NSW 2130 Australia

Trinity Grammar School

Head Master, G.M. Cujes
B.Ec(Hons), M.A., M.Ed., Dip. Sch. Admin.,
M.A.C.E., M.A.C.E.A., F.A.I.M.

Tuesday, January 23, 2001

Dear Parents,

The School Council and I believe it is important that the whole School Community be kept informed about the Boarding House allegations. I last wrote to you in October, so I thought it appropriate to bring you all up to date. The hearing is scheduled to commence on February 5. As I explain below I am unable to comment on that hearing.

However, I have made a point of speaking with parents, both publicly and privately, prospective parents, and our own boys about this matter generally. The School is being as open and informative as possible under the circumstances. Of course, we are all suffering; particularly the boys tragically caught up in this damaging situation.

Our collective anguish is even more difficult at this time as it is just not possible for the School to refute many of the false allegations raised in the media. For us to engage every specific allegation in the media would undoubtedly jeopardise the legal proceedings. At the appropriate time, fear not, we will put the truth on the public record. Needless to say, at all times the School has not only met its obligations under the relevant Child Protection Legislation, but has also acted in the best interests of all the boys.

As an Old Boy, former parent and now Head Master, I can readily identify with the mixed emotions many of us feel now. There are feelings of embarrassment for the good name of the School and anger at the lack of understanding by those outside of the proper processes the School has followed. We all know that these allegations go totally against the nature and philosophy of our fine school, and all that it represents.

It is a matter of record that as soon as we became aware that these allegations might have some substance, we followed the guidelines set down. The Dept. of Community Services (DOCS) was notified, as required. They, and the Joint Investigation Team, directed the School not to make any further contact with parents or the boys so as to not "corrupt the investigation."

It was in everyone's best interests that the officials involved in the investigation take full responsibility for subsequent events.

The level of supervision of our boarders, and the commitment of our boarding staff, is extremely professional and caring. It follows the same high standards established over many years. However, as we all know, the Boarding House runs on principles of trust and the boys exercising a degree of responsibility.

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PINE BLUFF CAMPUS
Pine Bluff
Via Bigga NSW 2583
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Of course, the School is ever conscious of its own responsibility to maintain a safe, wholesome environment. Our clear anti-bullying stance is publicly documented, both in the Record Book as well as the Handbook. The School's Policy Statement on Bullying encourages boys to bring to the School's attention any anti-social behaviour.

I know that as parents your decision to send your son to Trinity Grammar School was a considered one. I am sure that your son's experiences and progress to date, plus your own knowledge of the School, continue to vindicate your trust in Trinity. Like all Schools, Trinity is by no means perfect. Our ongoing and unquestioned commitment is to the educational and pastoral care of our boys. It is in difficult times like these, that we must not be distracted from our principal reason for being.

We continue to strive for a standard of excellence in all fields of endeavour; academic, sporting, musical, artistic and co-curricular.

We are firm in our belief that the overwhelming majority of our boys are happy, safe and secure, and are being well cared for in a Christian environment.

I continue to pray that we will be led to a speedy and appropriate resolution of our current difficulties and value your ongoing prayerful support.

Detur Gloria Soli Deo.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Milton Cujes', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Milton Cujes
Head Master