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Dear Member of the College Community,

I am writing to you and to all members of the College community on a matter of significance regarding child protection.

I am saddened to inform you that another former member of staff, Fr Laurence Leonard SJ, will stand trial next week relating to offences allegedly committed at Saint Ignatius' College Riverview between 1973 and 1978.

These charges relate to historic abuse allegations and do not involve any current teacher or student at Saint Ignatius' College Riverview.

Out of respect for the judicial process now underway, we will refrain from public comment on what is alleged at this time.

All of us at the College acknowledge this trial may prove to be a very difficult time for members of our community including our Old Boys.

To that end, I want to make sure you are aware of the support services available including those provided by the National Redress Scheme [HERE](#).

I reiterate our longstanding message that anyone with any evidence of criminal behaviour committed at Saint Ignatius' College Riverview, to report the matter to the police so an appropriate investigation can be undertaken. The NSW Police can be contacted on the Crime Stoppers Hotline (1800 333 000).

We are committed to supporting victims and survivors of abuse with dignity and compassion if and when they choose to come forward. I encourage them to make contact with me on 0456 808 132 or Mr Simon Davies, Director of Professional Standards for the Australian Jesuit Province, on (03) 9810 7320.

Saint Ignatius' College is a safe place for all students and is fully compliant with all mandated government requirements. The College has comprehensive child protection policies and procedures in place which are reinforced with rigorous staff training and compliance protocols.

We strongly condemn any abuse of children or young people and offer an unreserved apology for the trauma caused by any Jesuit, lay staff member, or volunteer.

The abuse of children at our College is a regrettable and distressing part of our history which we openly and fully acknowledge. We will never forget the crimes committed against children and young people, and we will continue to work to support victims and survivors of abuse.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Paul Hine
Principal