



Dear Parents and Guardians

It is with deep sadness that I write to inform you of a tragic accident that occurred on the afternoon of Thursday 16 March during the Year 11 Outdoor Education ATAR Camp at Brides Cave, Boranup. One of the external instructors who was participating in the camp, unfortunately fell at the scene.

Emergency services were immediately called, and our students were led by staff members to another location. Sadly, we were informed shortly thereafter that the external instructor had passed away. On behalf of Newman College, we extend our sympathies and condolences to his family and loved ones.

Late yesterday afternoon, our College's Critical Incident Team met and the Executive and Wellbeing Team individually telephoned parents to advise them of what had occurred. Given the distressing nature of this incident, our Year 11 students and teachers returned early from the expedition late last night. They and their families were met by our Executive and Wellbeing Team on their arrival early this morning.

We have been working to put in place immediate response measures including:

- Executive and Wellbeing Team met the returning students, staff and parents at 12.30am on Friday 17 March in the Chapel for a pastoral debrief and prayer
- Staff were briefed on the incident on Friday 17 March in the Chapel at 8.10am
- Year 11 students will have a Year Assembly during PCG today and will be supported by the College Psychologists and the Leader of Wellbeing
- The returning Year 11 Outdoor Education ATAR Students are not expected to attend the College today, but were invited to come in for lunch, should they wish, for pastoral support with the Wellbeing Team
- On Monday 20 March during Period 2, the Year 11 Outdoor Education ATAR classes will be involved in a formal pastoral debrief
- Staff, students, and families are invited on Thursday 23 March to the Community Mass at 8.10am in the Chapel, where we will dedicate the Mass to the instructor's family and the repose of his soul
- Families will be contacted on the weekend to check in on the students involved

In speaking with Police this morning, I was informed that the response of our staff on the camp was impeccable. She reflected that the students were magnificent and responded well to the SES Counsellor and Police who were present. The College will provide such assistance as is necessary to the relevant authorities as they investigate this incident.

We encourage families to remain connected and keep the lines of communication open with the Leader of Wellbeing, [Ms Annalise Gangemi](#), should you be concerned about your children.

**Challenge — Collaborate — Create — Celebrate**

One of the strengths of the Newman community is our ability to be present to each other, particularly during times of struggle. We know that the strong sense of family spirit and outreach that exists between parents, students, and staff, will continue to nurture those who may be impacted by this accident. Getting around and surrounding those in need is at the heart of who we are as a Marist College. We ask that you keep the external instructor's family in your thoughts and prayers.

Thank you for the ongoing collaboration and support.

Take care,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lucie McCrory".

Dr Lucie McCrory  
PRINCIPAL (Acting)  
17 March 2023