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Principal's Update Week 5 Term 1 2020

IT Outage

On Wednesday 19 February the school's IT network was shut down by an aggressive virus that encrypted our servers. The virus locked access to a large number of our IT services resulting in no access to DayMap and some disruption to planned lesson activities reliant on ICT. Teachers are very aware of the difficulties this has caused for students who have deadlines for assignments coming up. Teachers are working with students to extend due dates and negotiate alternate work submission methods as appropriate.

Since that time our IT technicians have been working closely with Department for Education personnel and third party contractors to isolate and eradicate the virus and begin the process of rebuilding our server structure and reinstating access to the network. This process will continue over the next two weeks and services will be progressively brought back online as they are restored, tested and known to be stable.

I can reiterate the virus has not affected student BYO devices and no student personal data has been lost or affected. As you can appreciate, this has been distressing for many staff who have potentially 'lost' their intellectual work product. We are hopeful this impact will be minimised if a back-up completed over the January holidays is able to be successfully restored. In the meantime, please be understanding and patient as we complete the significant tasks required to repair the damage created by the virus.

Pastoral Care Worker

Our school has been fortunate to secure funding to employ a Pastoral Care Worker for 10 hours per week for the next three years. We are working closely with the Schools Ministry Group to find a suitable candidate for the position. The successful applicant is due to begin their work with the school in Term 2 and will be located in The Hub. The Pastoral Care Worker will work closely with students to provide a range of activities, particularly during break times, which will improve student engagement and enjoyment of school.

Sports Day

Sports Day this year will be held on Friday 6 March at Tilley Reserve. Students should come dressed in House colours and be ready to take part in a range of traditional athletics events and novelty activities. Parents are most welcome to attend and I would encourage you to drop in as Sports Day is traditionally a highlight of the Golden Grove High School year.



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Additional Leader Appointed to the Discovery Centre

It is with great pleasure that I announce Lizzy Farrier has been appointed as an additional leader to the Discovery Centre in 2020 to support Anna Dunn with the leadership of Discovery Centre learning and community access programs and wellbeing initiatives. Lizzy was an outstanding applicant for the role. They are a wonderful leadership team and will achieve great outcomes with the Discovery Centre students.

Local Student off to Canberra to the Political Debate on Australia's Water Issues

I am pleased to inform you that one of our students Bailing (Eric) will be attending as a national delegate at the 25th National Schools Constitutional Convention (NSCC). Bailing (Eric) will travel to Canberra to be among 120 Year 11 and 12 students selected from around Australia to attend this three-day event. This Convention will be held at the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House in Canberra from Tuesday 17 to Thursday 19 March 2020.

This program is deliberately designed to provide the students an opportunity to become better informed about how Australia's Constitution provides a democratic framework to inspire them to take an active interest in the operation of government. The topic of the 2020 Convention is *'Federalism: The Constitution and Australia's Water'*. This will include input from experts and group discussions relating to the ongoing debate about the management of Australia's water systems and the constitutional implications.

Other elements of the program will include a tour of Parliament House and a reception at Government House followed by a dinner at the High Court of Australia.

We congratulate Eric on being selected for this wonderful opportunity. We are very proud of you.

Peter Kuss
Principal