



Bialik College

4 May 2017

Dear Parents, Staff and Alumni

We write to inform you that a former teacher of Bialik College, who has not worked at the College for some time, has been arrested by Victoria Police. The arrest is as a result of information recently uncovered by Bialik College that, amongst other materials, appears to relate to the time of the teacher's employment at Bialik.

The material, containing files of inappropriate pornographic matter, was recovered by members of our ICT department from a portable hard-drive that had been locked away in storage since that time, until it was restored and audited last week.

Upon discovery of the material, we immediately notified Victoria Police, the Victorian Institute of Teaching and the teacher's current employer. Based on Victoria Police's directive, we are unfortunately unable to provide you with more information at this stage. However, Victoria Police has advised there are no contact offences alleged and no ongoing risk to students. The students taught by the teacher were in Middle and Senior Schools.

The College has a robust Child Protection Policy in place and takes its responsibility for the care and welfare of our students and those in the wider community extremely seriously. We have rigorous and regular screening, induction, staff training and monitoring systems in place. Notwithstanding, in this case, the teacher's alleged actions appear so calculated and covert, that their fiduciary responsibility may have been breached. This is extremely disappointing and saddening.

Nevertheless, as a result of this incident, the College's ongoing commitment to review its processes and practices has already led to some changes to the timing and regularity of auditing staff devices, including continued regular checks of College-purchased external hard drives used by staff.

All staff will continue to be vigilant in our dedication to child safety and will immediately invoke police involvement when anything warrants it. We encourage, support and expect every member of our community to do likewise. Should any person connected to the Bialik community feel the need to speak to someone at the College in this regard, please contact either of us, any member of the Senior Management Team or any of the School Psychologists. Years 6-12 students will be briefed in year levels about the contents of this letter in an age-appropriate way, so that if they have any concerns of any nature, or if they come across online or offline comments about the situation, they are fully supported.

Bialik College is cooperating fully with Victoria Police and the Victorian Institute of Teaching. We place a very high level of trust in our teachers, present and past, and we are deeply shocked and upset by this situation. We will endeavour to keep you updated of any progress in the investigation as soon as we are able to do so.

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Stowe-Lindner
Principal

Kate Beaconsfield
President

