

11 August 2023

Dear Staff and Community Members,

The Board of Governors would like to provide you all with an update following Wednesday's media reports.

The timing of recent rumours about Shelford has been most unfortunate, particularly given the announcement regarding Katrina's appointment at Scotch College. In the interest of ensuring continued transparency with our school community, we would like to clarify a few matters.

As mentioned in Wednesday's announcement, earlier this year the Board of Shelford was approached by Caulfield Grammar School to discuss a closer relationship between our two schools. These discussions continue but remain at an early stage.

Separate from these discussions, the Board recently became aware that Katrina had accepted an opportunity at Scotch College. Unfortunately, Katrina's decision became knowledge in the education community before Shelford or Scotch College had made an official announcement. More importantly, premature news of Katrina's decision coincided with the emergence of an unhelpful rumour – from another independent girls' school – that Caulfield Grammar School was "buying" Shelford Girls' Grammar.

Unsurprisingly, the media has relished the opportunity to report on the narrative created by these matters. In turn, this has created uncertainty and led to speculation within our school community.

It will not surprise our school community, or indeed anyone familiar with education, that independent schools – and in particular girls' schools – have experienced challenges in recent years. Presentation College, Mowbray College, and Kilmore were forced to close because of dwindling enrolments.

The Shelford Board is not prepared to see this happen and is committed to the good governance and sustainable operation of this wonderful school. At all times we have the students and staff at the forefront of our minds when making decisions about the future of Shelford. This includes educational continuity, providing safe and functional facilities, the emotional and social well-being of our students, and living our Shelford values.

Right here, right now, the Shelford Board has every confidence that 2024 will be business as usual for Shelford Girls' Grammar notwithstanding Katrina's departure and the discussions which continue with CGS. We hope this assurance provides comfort to our staff, students, and other valued members of the Shelford community. Having spoken with so many of you in the last 48 hours, we have been buoyed by your passion for Shelford, and mindful of your desire for more information.



As communicated yesterday, the Board is canvassing a range of ideas and initiatives to strengthen the school and continue to benefit our girls, our staff, and our community in 2025 and beyond. Forward planning is an annual activity that is critical for the governance and management of any independent school, and even more so for a school such as Shelford during this pivotal time.

Rest assured, any decisions about the future direction of Shelford will be the subject of careful consideration, and with the education and wellbeing of our students – and particularly for those girls in critical learning years – our paramount consideration.

We ask that you allow the Board to work through this considered planning process and thank you for your patience and understanding. In turn, we commit to ensuring that our school community is informed about any significant developments directly from the Board.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact Katrina or other appropriate members of staff if you have any queries about your child's education and well-being.

**The Board of Governors**