



27 April 2017

Dear Parents / Guardians,

I hope you had an enjoyable Easter and that your child/ren had a positive start to term two.

Many of you may be aware of a new Netflix drama series called *13 Reasons Why* or have read articles about it or heard your child/ren talk about it.

*13 Reasons Why* is a fictional American television series based on the 2007 novel *Thirteen Reasons Why* by Jay Asher. The show revolves around a girl who commits suicide after a series of events, brought on by select individuals within her school. A series of cassette tapes provide the 'blame' or the reasons for her death.

The series has raised concerns about its graphic representation of both sexual assault and suicide. It also clearly presents a world where adolescents hide and avoid sharing information with the adults in their world.

Given the challenging content of the series we encourage parents to engage in conversation with their children about the themes and situations raised. Although this can be a difficult conversation, the series has raised the importance of listening to our teenagers and encouraging them to talk about their issues so that we can more effectively support them as they navigate relationships and situations in these vulnerable years.

The series may raise concerns and difficult emotions for many teenagers (and for some adults as well). If you have any concerns about your son/daughter's mental health or emotional wellbeing please do not hesitate to contact their Learner Mentor or House Coordinator.

Here is a link to a media release from Headspace that outlines some of the challenging content from the TV series: <https://www.headspace.org.au/news/dangerous-content-in-13-reasons-why/>

This is also a selection of articles that have been on social media and news media over the last week or so to give you a sense of what is being said about the series.

<http://www.theage.com.au/entertainment/-gvmuzq.html>

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com.au/2017/04/17/headspace-says-netflixs-new-show-about-suicide-is-dangerous\\_a\\_22043719/](http://www.huffingtonpost.com.au/2017/04/17/headspace-says-netflixs-new-show-about-suicide-is-dangerous_a_22043719/)

<http://totallythebomb.com/do-not-let-your-kids-watch-13-reasons-why>

We encourage you to be open and supportive of discussions with you child/ren about the series and the issues raised.

We hope this information is helpful to you. Do not hesitate to get in touch with the College if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Marco DiCesare  
Principal

Stephanie Banks  
Deputy Principal Wellbeing