



13 March 2025

Special Newsletter

You may be aware of media reports about a former teacher at our school, Mr Jason Shepherd. Mr Shepherd began working at Whanganui High School on 4 February 2008 and has not worked at Whanganui High School since 25 September 2020. He pleaded guilty to charges of grooming and was sentenced to home detention in October 2024.

Yesterday Mr Shepherd's name suppression orders were lifted by the court and he was able to be named. The school fully supports the lifting of name suppression as this shines light on Mr Shepherd's actions when he was in a position of trust and responsibility.

Our School Board condemns his offending and we deeply regret the harm that was caused to the students in our care. The school acknowledges the bravery and strength of young people who come forward to report abuse and supports any other young person who may have been harmed to make direct contact with the police.

The school is completely committed to the safety, well-being and achievement of all its students and has in place robust policies and procedures to prevent any other such offending occurring.

We know that this case will be confronting but hope that we have provided you with some reassurance around how seriously we take our responsibility to your child. If you have any questions about this letter, please don't hesitate to make contact with either of us through the school office.

Robert Sewell
Presiding Member
Whanganui High School Board

Martin McAllen
Principal
Whanganui High School