As members of our community would be aware, students in each year level are provided with the opportunity to participate in a year level camp. The annual year 10 camp is located at the Sports Super Centre on the Gold Coast. Unfortunately, an incident occurred on camp that has generated significant concern for the wellbeing of our students. On Tuesday 21 June I posted the following Compass news feed to our community.

On Monday evening four students were involved in a drug related incident. Two of the students were taken to hospital and were discharged this morning (Tuesday). All four students are safe and well. They are now back in Melbourne with their parents. As always, our first concern is for the safety and wellbeing of our students. Wellbeing support will be provided for the four students and their families. Wellbeing support will also be provided for students on camp and at school.

The incident received significant media coverage. The story ran on the Channel 7 and Channel 9 news bulletins on Tuesday evening and there was widespread print media coverage. I was interviewed by Channel 7 and, in consultation with the Department of Education, a statement was released to other media outlets. However, much of the information obtained by the media was sourced from the services involved on the Gold Coast.

Consistent with the Department of Education guidelines, a thorough investigation is being carried out and the consequences for those involved will be determined in due course. Wellbeing support will continue to be provided for those students and their families and indeed all students and their families who have been impacted by this incident.

The educational programs offered at Brentwood are of the highest quality and are reviewed regularly, including the drug education, wellbeing and resilience programs. At the heart of our educative purpose is the learning, growth and development of every student. Integral to this is the partnership between the school and home.

As we embark on the school holidays, I would encourage all parents to discuss the issue of drugs with their children. Unfortunately, incidents such as this can produce a ripple effect that may be confusing and/or distressing for some students. The following quote is taken directly from the National Drugs Campaign website of the Australian Government Department of Health.

“When it comes to talking about drugs, extensive research conducted with Australian parents and children tells us that young people appreciate parental advice and look to their parents for their views.”

Please be assured of our ongoing commitment to the safety and wellbeing of every student at this college. You are invited to contact our Director of Student Wellbeing, Brian Clements, if you would like to discuss any wellbeing concerns.

May I take this opportunity to wish all members of our community a safe and happy holiday.

Vicki Forbes
Principal

Reference:
http://www.drugs.health.gov.au/internet/drugs/publishing.nsf/content/home-1