Dear Parents/Carers,

At the core of what our Catholic schools are all about is supporting people who are disadvantaged or on the margins, or being a voice for those whose voice cannot be heard. An issue that the Executive of Catholic Schools, Dr Dan White, has taken up very strongly over the past two years is advocating for children who are currently being held in immigration detention in either Australian centres or in offshore places like Nauru. As you may have read about or seen in the media, many of these children have suffered terribly as a result of them being detained. Their detention has meant that they are being denied the opportunities that all children are entitled to: to feel safe, loved, to be cared for and to have an education. There are currently more than 200 children in this situation.

A campaign started by members of the Catholic Education Office community called **Jump Up & Down 4 Kids** is advocating on behalf of these children. And our College has been invited to help.

Next Wednesday 2 September, the students of Years 7-10 of De La Salle College will join with students from Bethlehem College and St Vincent’s College Ashfield as a community and stand in solidarity for the children in detention.

Students will be invited to assemble in the De La Salle College Hall at **2.00pm** on the day. The photos and footage taken from the event will be posted on the Jump UP & Down 4 kids Facebook and on Twitter @jumping4kids. A campaign song, Jump, performed by Jacinta Gulisana, former X-Factor finalist, is set to be released in late September and will be especially played at the assembly for the students. It is hoped that the song will help to further bring to the community’s attention to this important issue.

De La Salle has always had a deep commitment to social justice. I am proud of our efforts to help those most in need. This is just one more way that we can be that voice for those whose voice cannot be heard.

Of course, if you would not like your child to participate in this event, please just contact the school. The opportunity to participate is invitational. Parents and staff are also invited to take part. For more information about Jump Up & Down 4 Kids, just Google **Jump Up & Down 4 Kids** and that will take you to the campaign’s Facebook page.

Thank you for your continued support of the College.

Yours sincerely

Mr John Dunn

*Director of Faith and Mission*