

Letter writing initiative helps maintain community connection

Students of St Rita's College have been busy bridging the connection gap, reaching out to community members who may be in isolation or on the frontline of the current health crisis.

Classes have been writing letters to the elderly, veterans and healthcare workers, offering a 'virtual hug' and letting them know they are appreciated during this unprecedented time.

The College will distribute letters to a number of local hospitals, nursing homes, Meals on Wheels branches and RSLs in the lead up to ANZAC Day, after services were cancelled this year.

St Rita's College Deputy Principal – Students, Ms Catherine Allen, said the exercise would benefit both sender and receiver.

"In a time when it can be easy to focus on how things are negatively impacting 'me', we think it is important to offer opportunities for the girls to be look outward and serve the community," Ms Allen said.

"The letters are one way of doing this and also allow us to act on our pillars of *Compassion* and *Hope*."

Year 10 student Isabella said she hoped the gesture would make a difference.

"We are living in extraordinary times," she said.

"The opportunity to write letters to those who have also experienced extraordinary times – our veterans and our elderly, allowed us to think further than how things are impacting us."

Letter writing will continue within classes this week prior to distribution at hospitals, nursing homes and RSLs.

