St Brigid’s College has been added to the Bushfire Zone Register. Inclusion on this register means that, although highly unlikely, the college may be required to invoke pre-emptive closure on a day for which a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating (FDR) has been declared for the Shire of Kalamunda. A Catastrophic FDR means that if a fire starts, it is likely to be uncontrollable, unpredictable and fast moving.

When given advance warning by DFES that a Catastrophic FDR has been forecast for a given day, the Executive Director of Catholic Education may direct the pre-emptive closure of St Brigid’s College. If the college receives such a direction, you will be informed of the possible planned closure via the St Brigid’s College APP and SMS. Please ensure the college has up to date email and phone contact details for you and your emergency contacts.

Please be assured that the welfare and safety of our students is our primary concern and the College would be following advice from DFES and the emergency services if this closure were to be actioned.

In the intervening period between the declaration of the pre-emptive closure and the day of planned closure, DFES will monitor weather patterns to keep the Director of Catholic Education informed of any change to the forecast for the declared day. The final decision to pre-emptively close the college will be confirmed by the Executive Director with the Principal no later than 4.30 pm on the day before the declared day. If the forecast changes after that deadline, the closure will stand, regardless of improvements to the weather conditions later in the afternoon of the day before the declared day or overnight. The intention is to limit confusion or uncertainty for parents.

Parents will be advised of the confirmation of closure, or its reversal, via updates on the College website, the College App and telephone SMS notification.

It is anticipated that the college will only be required to close for a single day at a time, but this will depend on the weather. You will receive an SMS to advise you whether the college will reopen the day after the planned closure, or whether it will remain closed. The college website will contain a notice to advise you of the current status of the college closure and when it is expected to reopen.

I ask that you monitor local media for current information about fire danger ratings and notification of schools reopening. Staying tuned to ABC Local Radio in your locality is advisable. You can also check with DFES on 13 DFES (13 33 37) or http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au. If any of the options listed above for finding out when to send your child back to school will prove problematic, please contact the college to arrange for us to phone you to advise you when the college will reopen.
Please contact the college on 9290 4200 if you have any questions about planned closures during the bushfire season.

Dr Amelia Toffoli
Principal