

# PHILLIPS EXETER ACADEMY

August 24, 2018

Dear Exonian,

We are sharing with you today a collection of materials related to our ongoing work on sexual misconduct at Exeter.

But first, to the survivors who have come forward: We apologize, wholly and unconditionally. You have shown great courage in sharing your stories with investigators and with us, risking further harm to yourselves in doing so. We are profoundly moved and grateful. Your stories have shown us the depth and extent of the Academy's past failings. You have helped us better understand the trauma inflicted by sexual misconduct and have taught us much about how to support survivors and protect current students.

We apologize to the survivors who have not come forward. We understand that each survivor must decide how, when and whether to tell their story. In releasing these reports, we have tried to do so in a manner that is respectful of and sensitive to the needs and concerns of those survivors whose stories are included, and those whose stories are not. Despite those efforts, we recognize this information may be painful to read for any survivor of sexual assault, and we caution all readers that the attachments to this letter include details that may be upsetting to read.

We apologize to the entire Exeter community, past and present. On the Academy's behalf, we accept full responsibility for the harm that has been suffered and for the failures of those whose responsibility it was to prevent and address such harm. We recognize the enormous violation of trust and the lasting wounds inflicted and endured.

Below you will find links to several documents:

1. [\*\*The Holland & Knight report\*\*](#). Holland & Knight (H&K) investigated allegations of sexual misconduct by adults against students. We applied our principles of disclosure to H&K's findings and determined to publicly disclose the names of seven perpetrators of sexual misconduct, one of whom was not previously named and one whose identity could not be established. H&K's report summarizes their factual findings in these seven cases.
2. [\*\*The Nixon Peabody report\*\*](#). Nixon Peabody (NP) investigated allegations of sexual misconduct in which the parties were represented by legal counsel, had previously been investigated by the Academy, or involved a criminal proceeding. We applied our principles of disclosure to these matters and determined to publicly disclose the names of four perpetrators of sexual misconduct, all of whom were previously named. The NP report summarizes the facts of these four cases. NP also reviewed allegations of sexual misconduct by students against students; you will find a summary of this work in the supplemental information described below.

3. **Supplemental information:**

- A description of the process we used when we received and investigated allegations.
- A summary of allegations of sexual misconduct by students against students.
- A description of our recent and ongoing efforts to prevent and address sexual misconduct.

We remain committed to investigating any future allegations of sexual misconduct and to providing support and resources for survivors. We encourage community members to reach out to Christina Palmer, director of student well-being at [cdpalmer@exeter.edu](mailto:cdpalmer@exeter.edu), whether to report sexual misconduct, to seek counseling, or to learn about ways survivors can promote their healing.

The Academy's leadership has no greater priority than to provide a safe environment, free of sexual abuse and harassment in all its forms. We are committed to understanding past failures in the prevention and handling of incidents of sexual misconduct. We will continue our efforts to implement proactive and preventive measures so that the past will not be repeated.

To our entire community, we again extend our heartfelt apologies and pledge our commitment to a safer future.

William K. Rawson '71; P'08  
Interim Principal

John A. "Tony" Downer '75; P'06, P'06, P'07  
President of the Trustees