Principal and teachers have their fingers on the Pulse

Established in 1996, Kardinia International College has won the Geelong Business Excellence Awards Sustainable Business Award for the past two years.

College principal Catherine Lockhart is bursting with pride as to how her staff, students, parents and community have supported each other throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I think our biggest achievement to date is how we managed over the last two years, how we've maintained our student numbers, how we've supported and been supported by our community, how we've managed to look after our staff and students," Mrs Lockhart says.

Having started as principal in 2019, just prior to the pandemic, Mrs Lockhart explains a wellbeing check-in system called Pulse was implemented, asking staff and students a series of questions each week to ensure their safety and mental wellbeing.

The Pulse system is still in use today despite the return to classroom learning after lockdowns were lifted.

"Our parents were so supportive as well and that made a huge difference, we were all on the same page and we were all doing what we could to support our students," Mrs Lockhart says of remote learning.

The college's efforts in contributing to a more sustainable world have earned it the 2020 and 2021 Sustainable Business Awards.

"It's been a really lovely process because of the people we've connected with – one of our strategic goals is to connect with our community and I've found that the business awards have really allowed us to do that," Mrs Lockhart explains.

The 2020 Business of the Year Award went to Sea All Dolphin Swims, who Mrs Lockhart and her team connected with at the time. They have since been working with students at the school on environmental initiative work around the region.

College principal Catherine Lockhart is immensley proud of the strong community her school is part of. (Supplied)

Mrs Lockhart encourages other businesses in the Geelong and surrounding areas to consider applying for the awards.

"It's a really nice chance to reflect, to have a look at what you do well and celebrate that, and also to challenge yourself on what you can do and where you can do better," Mrs Lockhart says.

The 2022 Geelong Business Excellence Awards are proudly brought to you by major sponsor LBW Business and Wealth Advisors.

The awards are open to clever, creative and connected businesses, business leaders and young entrepreneurs, and provide a platform to celebrate businesses that have adapted, survived or thrived over the last 12 months.

Entries to the 2022 Geelong Business Excellence Awards are now open and close on July 15. You do not need to be nominated to enter the awards.

For more information and to enter the awards, visit www.gbea.com.au

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