

## **MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Wednesday, October 3, 2018*

### **Actor and philanthropist to celebrate fundraising for breast cancer with St Ursula's students**

He is loved right across Australia for his work as an actor and warrior against breast cancer, but Samuel Johnson will share the stage tomorrow with the students of St Ursula's College.

The girls have worked hard raising more than \$1000 for Mr Johnson's "Love Your Sister" foundation over recent months, and are looking forward to presenting him with a cheque to be used towards research into the disease which tragically took the life of his sister Connie last year.

Deborah Ryan, Assistant Principal (Identity and Culture) at St Ursula's said the students were looking forward to celebrating their fundraising efforts with Mr Johnson and learn more about his work.

"Over the course of the last term, one of our Year 11 classes joined forces with the Year 7 Leadership team and the Pink Ladies Service Group to focus on raising money and awareness for the Love Your Sister Foundation," Ms Ryan said.

"This builds on the work that our Pink Ladies group have carried out over the last 10 years to support women and men in our College community impacted by breast cancer as well as rehabilitation programs in Toowoomba.

"The fundraising efforts in recent months have included a cup cake stall and ice-block sales, and during October, they will run a "pink month" where they will sell pink hair ribbons and host a community breakfast function."

Mr Johnson has featured heavily in the media in recent years. In 2014, he entered the Guinness Book of World Records for completing the longest ride on a unicycle (15,955 kilometres over a year). Mr Johnson raised nearly \$1.5 million for cancer research for the endeavour, and was subsequently awarded the Order of Australia Medal. He has also received many awards for his acting, and in 2017, won the Gold Logie – after which he promptly retired from acting at the age of 39 to devote his life to fundraising. Mr Johnson's younger sister Connie – with whom he formed the charity Love Your Sister on the back of a dare – died from breast cancer in late 2017. Love Your Sister has currently raised more than \$7 million towards finding a cure for breast cancer.

St Ursula's College principal Tanya Appleby said she was proud of the students' commitment to raising money for a worthwhile cause.

"Samuel Johnson is an outstanding example of someone who is willing to use his talents and energies towards a very worthwhile cause," Mrs Appleby said.

"Here at St Ursula's, we try to empower our girls to use their own gifts to help bring about positive change in the world, in much the same way Mr Johnson has done.

“The students have devoted a lot of time to raising money, and everyone here at the school is very proud of their dedication and initiative. It is perhaps even more meaningful to our girls knowing that breast cancer can prove so tragic for so many Australian women, so helping to research funding into this disease is something that may benefit them or someone they know in the future.”

**The St Ursula’s College students will make a presentation to Samuel Johnson for the Love Your Sister Foundation at a special afternoon tea at 2pm tomorrow (Thursday, October 4) in the Kerrilaw room in the school’s main building in Taylor Street. Media is very welcome to attend, and students will be available to speak to reporters. Samuel Johnson will also be available for interview.**

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*St Ursula's College is a stand-alone Catholic secondary girls' school. The College was established in 1931 by Ursuline nuns. Mrs Tanya Appleby is the Principal of the school.*