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16 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I write to update you on how Catherine McAuley College is responding to the extraordinary situation unfolding regarding COVID-19 (Coronavirus). This is evolving, we will keep you updated as things change. Our first priority remains the health and safety of our school community.

Incursions and Excursions

For the remainder of Term 1 we will only be running timetabled classes. All incursions and excursions have been postponed or cancelled. To be very clear this includes any camps, representative sports, retreats, information evenings, assemblies, Production rehearsals, Open Evening, field trips, and any student trips off campus.

Continued Learning

We are ready for disruption to teaching should the College be instructed to close. The College has excellent online learning resources and is ready to provide the support required for students. Already students and teachers are using a range of online learning tools (SIMON, Google, etc.). These platforms allow for teaching activities to take place while students remain at home. Further preparations are underway to ensure that students are fully supported to maintain their learning goals.

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) is looking at ways to ensure continuity of learning and delivery of assessment to students completing one or more VCE Unit 3-4 and/ or VCE VET Unit 3-4 sequence. They are asking schools to be flexible and agile in ensuring delivery of assessment and we will continue to seek their advice. It would be worthwhile for VCE students to refer to the VCAA website [here](#).

Cleaning and Hygiene

Our cleaning program has been increased, we are speaking with students about effective hygiene behaviours and we have signage around the College as a reminder.

About COVID-19

The Department of Health and Human Services has a number of resources on its website, which explain the virus, detail risk-reduction practices and behaviours, and answer frequently asked questions. These are available via this [link](#). You can also find information about Catholic education's response and information for parents via this [link](#).

Should any member of our College community have direct contact with someone who has been identified as having, or possibly having, COVID-19, they are to notify the College immediately.

We all have a critical role in helping to manage this situation and we should all:

- Exercise good judgment by keeping children home if they are feeling unwell for any reason.
- Talk to children about the situation, as they may be feeling anxious or stressed. You have a key role in helping student's feel prepared and safe.

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COOLOCK

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A Ministry of Mercy Education Ltd
ABN 69 154 531 870

- Encourage children to be proactive and committed to their schoolwork, and to stay connected with the school and their teachers.

Further notifications

We are being provided the latest advice from the Australian and Victorian Chief Medical Officers by the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd to ensure that our school practices are helping to keep our school community safe from the outbreak. We also have access to resources and support from Mercy Education Limited, Catholic Education Sandhurst and the Department of Health and Human Services.

We ask that you continue to work closely with the school and to contact the College should you have any new concerns.

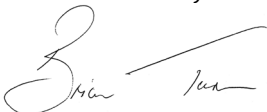
I want to reassure you that the College is well-prepared for the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus).

Thank you for your support as we work to keep our students safe.

Let us each pray in our own tradition that communities everywhere will pull together with a common sense of purpose to slow the spread of the coronavirus, enough to allow hospitals to cope and a vaccine to be developed. May this crisis bring out the best in us, by our care with not risking spreading the disease and our offering assistance to those who are suffering because of it. May those afflicted be restored to health.

Let us pray that governments make wise decisions to protect their populations both from the disease itself and the economic impact on vulnerable workers. From this crisis, may humanity grow in wisdom such that we work together more effectively for a fairer, more sustainable world, one in which all people can flourish. Amen.

Yours sincerely



Mr Brian Turner
Principal