



 Coolock (03) 5449 3466
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17 March 2020

Dear Students, Staff and Parents,

My apologies for the constant flow of information. Making sense of it can be a real challenge and we can only imagine the confusion for our children, let alone for adults. Firstly, I want to thank the numerous members of our community who have made individual choices to isolate their families to reduce the risk of infection. Some families have taken extraordinary measures to protect others and have been in open communication with the College. Communication, clarity and facts are the most important details we need.

As this week progresses, we have more students who are absent. Today, Tuesday 17 March (St Patrick's Day), we have over 250 absences. I believe this trend this will continue. Many of our students and families are sick, none have tested positive to COVID-19 (Coronavirus), lots have a Cold or Influenza symptoms.

The other noticeable feature is the level of confusion and concern amongst the students. When you reflect on the recent fires, floods, Coronavirus, Stock Market crashes and talk of recessions it must all be overwhelming. The important thing to remember is to talk to your children and listen to them. Keep the advice simple and real.

Over the past two weeks we have been preparing for a likely closure or lock down. We don't know what that means exactly, generally speaking it would mean that there are no classes at school. There is and will be work available online and staff are preparing for that eventuality, where they will only be setting work online. For VCE students', contingencies are already being discussed and the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) is sending regular updates. It all depends on the level of closures and interruptions.

With the recent directions from various authorities the **attached** changes have been made to the College calendar from now through Term 2. The contingency for the present is that we offer the timetabled classes and otherwise remove any group activities or events that will result in large gatherings. Any further adjustments will be made under the advice of Governors and Authorities.

If there is a closure or lockdown, that information will be circulated to families through our usual channels. That decision will most likely be immediate. During this time there will be further information presented on SIMON. Please be vigilant and check for updates regularly. Please also visit the CMC Website or PAM for the most recent health advice if you have any personal or family concerns.

Please remember our Mercy and Gospel values in this difficult time. Pope Francis reminds us:

“Compassion is an essential characteristic of God’s mercy” and “in the gestures and actions of the Good Samaritan, we recognize the action of God’s mercy throughout salvation history.”

.../2

COOLOCK

Years 7-9
McIvor Highway, Junortoun 3551

ST MARY'S

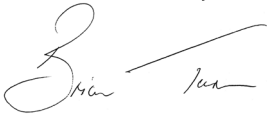
Years 10-12
Barkly Street, Bendigo 3550

A Ministry of Mercy Education Ltd
ABN 69 154 531 870

“It is the same compassion with which God encounters each of us: He does not ignore us. He recognizes our pain, He knows when we need help and consolation. He comes close and never abandons us.”

The Samaritan, the Pope stresses, acts with true mercy: he binds the man’s wounds, takes him to a hostel, and “personally takes care of him.”

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brian Turner". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Mr Brian Turner
Principal

[Attachment]

Catherine McAuley College 2020 Calendar - Cancellation List

For the remainder of Term 1 and through Term 2 we will only be running timetabled classes. All incursions and excursions have been cancelled as well as additional classes out of school time. The following is a comprehensive lists of events that have been cancelled.

Term One	
Week 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All representative sport • Year 9 Swimming Program
Week 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 8 Anglesea Camp • Sonya Karass Presentation • Year 9 Swimming Program • Coolock: Caritas K's • All representative sport • Structured Workplace Learning – SWL

School Holidays
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional classes or studies at school

Term Two	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All representative sport cancelled <i>until further notice</i> • Bendigo Tech School Excursions • No site or whole school assemblies 	
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 9 OEG Camp • Campus Assemblies • Anzac Day Liturgy • Year 11 Retreat
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 3 Outdoor Ed Trip
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careers Night • VCE Drama Night • CMC Athletics • Work Experience
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naplan – <i>To be advised</i> • Unit 3 Environmental Science Trip
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMC Parent Student Teacher Interviews • Unit 1 OED Camp
Week 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College Production