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1 June 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

Thank you for your support during the period of remote learning. We have worked together to support our students as a College Community and we should all be proud of this partnership. Your feedback over the past seven weeks has been well received, and we hope that we have been able to continually adjust to support our students.

Following advice from the Chief Health Officer, all students from our Coolock Campus can return to on-site learning from Tuesday 9 June.

The following points are made to clarify the position of the College on various important matters. Further information is also provided under the "Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)" section at the end of this communication.

### **First Day Back – Tuesday June 9**

Our feedback suggests that the Year 7-9 Students are eager to return to school. To best support their return, we will allow some time at the beginning of the day for students to reconnect with each other. Our Year Level Learning Leaders will be in contact with students this week regarding specific planning and to provide their video welcome message.

Many of our students will find the readjustment to on-site learning a challenge. We encourage you to read through [Seven things for a smooth transition back to school-based learning](#) by leading clinical psychologist Andrew Fuller, who outlines his seven priorities to help their journey. Our staff are aware that the return to school will be different and we will be working through the first four days slowly with our students.

### **Health**

In line with advice from the State Government, there will be some changes to how we operate to ensure we are following guidelines and keeping ourselves and others safe. This will include an increase in cleaning and hygiene practices, such as hand sanitiser available in all classrooms. Please rest assured that we take this seriously and our staff are committed to healthy practices.

We ask that students who are unwell do not attend school, and that families arrange to receive the appropriate medical care. Please continue your open communication with us regarding the outcome of health appointments, so that we can work together for positive outcomes for everyone.

Water Bottles – drinking fountains are not to be used by students. Each student should bring water from home and re-fill areas will be available.

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#### **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

## **Learning**

We will have 13 days with our students to complete Term 2. We expect that students will not be overwhelmed with 'new work' through this period of time. We will be continuing with the planned programs that were designed for the entirety of Term 2. Importantly, staff will be spending some time to reconnect 'face to face' with our students. Staff have been asked to ensure that we spend time working with our students to capture a full understanding of 'where students are at' with the learning that has been occurring prior to extending into further areas.

Students will receive Reports for Semester 1 that will provide feedback about the learning tasks completed this Semester. In consideration of the impact of COVID-19 on learning, these reports will not be aligned with the Victorian Curriculum Progression Points. Our Semester 2 Reports will include this information.

## **Activities**

Our Activities Coordinator, Ms Madi Cliff has been busy preparing a range of activities and opportunities for the students upon return. Information regarding these activities will be available for students on SIMON.

## **Uniform**

We are aware that some families (particularly Year 7 families) will not have had the opportunity to buy new winter uniform items. Whilst it is our preference that students wear the correct Term 2 uniform, we understand that some students may need to wear their summer or PE uniforms over the next few weeks. Please avoid wearing a combination of these uniform types.

Noone Imagewear (21 Queen St, Bendigo) is open and available for families. Term 3 will resume with students meeting the uniform expectations of the College, including wearing the College Blazer to and from school.

Please contact your child's Year Level Learning Leader if you have any challenges regarding access to uniform items.

## **Correction Day**

Monday 15 June has been a Student Free Day in our College Calendar since last year. This day is earmarked as a Correction Day and will remain.

We really look forward to seeing you in person next week and know that we will continue to support each other as we learn and adapt to this next stage of the COVID-19 challenge.

Yours sincerely



**Mr Tim Edwards**

Deputy Principal - Coolock Campus

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

## **Who goes back and when?**

All Year 7 to 9 Students on Tuesday June 9:

## **Are students expected to socially distance?**

No. According to the Chief Health Officers this guideline only applies to adults. The staff on site, however, will be expected to observe all social distancing recommendations.

## **My child is feeling sick, although only moderately. What should we do?**

If your child has flu or cold-like symptoms, please keep them at home and seek medical advice. They can return to school only when symptoms have resolved.

If your child feels sick during the day we will contact you to collect your child.

## **How will we maintain hygiene?**

Students will be encouraged to wash their hands or use hand sanitiser regularly, including on arrival, and before and after classes. There will be hand sanitiser available in each classroom and hand wash soap in the rest rooms. Students are also asked to use their own drinking water bottle.

Our cleaning company has a rigorous and extensive scope of works that involves daily cleaning and sanitation.

## **Will classrooms look different?**

No, class sizes will remain the same and students will not be expected to physically distance.

## **I don't feel comfortable sending my child to school. Can they continue to learn remotely?**

Once a Year level has returned there will be no provision for remote learning. All students who are able to go to school are expected to attend. The government advice is clear that teachers will not be expected to run both face-to-face and remote classes. There will be limited exemptions.

## **My child/family has health complications related to COVID-19. Should they attend school?**

This will be dependent on the health medical advice for each individual. We will continue to support students with resources and guidance where they can't attend school for medical reasons related to COVID-19. Written medical proof of this may be required. Please contact your child's Year Level Learning Leader if you need to discuss or alert the College.

## **What if my child is quite anxious about returning to school?**

For some this will be a very normal reaction based on feelings of safety or some social anxieties. Our Wellbeing team is acutely aware that some students may need some additional support to manage the transition back to school. If you feel like your child is in need of extra support, please contact your child's Learning Mentor.

## **Will the canteen be open?**

Yes. Refer to PAM for the Canteen menu.

## **Where did we get our information and advice from?**

All Catholic schools in Victoria are committed to following as closely as is practicable in their individual settings the guidelines published by the Victorian Chief Health Officer, the Department of Education and the Catholic Education Commission Victoria.