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3 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Orientation – Year 7 2021

As the school year draws to a close, this update will provide you with information on how we will begin the 2021 year.

Unfortunately, we are not able to run the traditional Year 7 Orientation Day on 8 December this year. We know this will be disappointing news, as it is usually a day of excitement and opportunity for our incoming Year 7s, however, we have made some significant changes to the 2021 commencement program to account for this and support the Year 7s as they start their schooling with Catherine McAuley College.

As well, next Monday evening we will not be hosting the Parent Information Evening. In place of this, next week we will be sending home resources that will answer the common questions that parents and students have. This will include some short videos answering the most commonly asked questions by new students, maps of bus routes, locations of drop off and pick up points, etc. We are also looking at the possibility of hosting a parent session on the evening of Thursday 28 January, COVID restrictions pending, as there are still many families who haven't been able to visit and tour the College.

For those new to the College, the year traditionally starts with a Pastoral Planning Day where families would come in to the school for a meeting with their child's learning mentor, have school photos taken, collect laptops, find locker locations, etc. Due to the COVID Guidelines, and the constant uncertainty that haunts any scheduling or planning, the Pastoral Planning Day will not be held on Friday 29 January. The schedule has been adjusted to accommodate a Year 7 Orientation Day and the commencement of the school year for Year 12's. Years 8 – 11 will commence on Monday 1 February.

This does mean that other plans will need to change around school photos, laptop collection, etc. and we will provide updates on these as we confirm details. However, we are hopeful the Year 7 students will still be able to do most of this on the first day.

In place of the traditional start to the year, the Year 7s will have a day to themselves at Coolock Campus on Friday 29 January, before Years 8 and 9 students return to school on Monday 1 February. We know the 2021 Year 7s have missed most on the usual transition programs that lead in to beginning secondary school. With this in mind, the aim of the day for Year 7 students on Friday 29 January is to focus on transition and orienting themselves to the new space.

We will endeavour to make contact with families via phone over the first week or two of Term 1 so that conversations with learning mentors that would have normally taken place on Pastoral Planning Day will still occur, as we know these are valuable in building the relationship between school and home.

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COOLOCK

Years 7-9
McIvor Highway, Junortoun 3551

ST MARY'S

Years 10-12
164 Barkly Street, Bendigo 3550

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We will continue to provide updates to families, and we ask that you regularly check for the 2021 Commencement Newsletter that will be coming out soon.

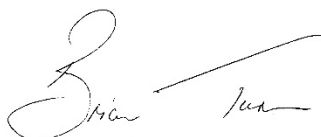
Beginning of Year Dates:

- College Finance Office opens: Monday 11 January
- College General Office opens: Monday 18 January
- Years 7 & 12 students start: Friday 29 January
- Years 8-11 students start: Monday 1 February

On behalf of the College we wish you all a joyful Christmas and a restful COVID free break over New Year with family and friends. We know that the curse of this pandemic will continue until the vaccine arrives, in the meantime we will make the necessary adjustments to maintain the standard that we achieved this year.

Thank you for you flexibility and patience through this year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Turner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr Brian Turner
Principal