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6 April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

**Re: Year 10 students – Thursday 7 April**

Throughout Term 1 the College has been juggling a reduced workforce as a result of COVID cases and staff members required to isolate. We are pleased that up until now we have managed normal operations without any closures. We acknowledge the teaching staff have been allocated additional classes to cover gaps and have been generous with their time.

However, we have exhausted all contingencies in an attempt to manage the staffing at St Mary's this Thursday. The College has consulted Mercy Education Ltd and Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd and it has been determined that the **Year 10 students** will be asked **to stay at home this Thursday 7 April**. Teachers of Year 10 students have been asked to prepare work for these students to be completed at home on Thursday.

Arrangements will be made for a small group of Year 10 VET Certificate students, undertaking First Aid training to remain onsite. Those students will be contacted separately and individually to confirm.

As the College was having difficulty allocating appropriate levels of teaching staff for Year 11 and 12 classes, the decision to preclude one year level from onsite attendance allows the Year 10 teachers to be reallocated. Please understand that online teaching is not currently permitted within the guidelines.

Friday 8 April will be a normal day, with all students attending onsite and the day will include the Way of the Cross liturgy, Site Assembly, Caritas Carnival and barbeque lunch.

Through Term 2, these closures could well become more common and are already growing more frequent across all educational sectors. The lack of replacement teachers across the board is a massive issue and we are working hard to ensure normal operations for our students.

We apologise for this inconvenience and thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Brian Turner  
**Principal**

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**COOLOCK**

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A Ministry of Mercy Education Ltd  
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