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Dear Parents and Carers

Throughout last year reference was made to the Catholic Education Multi-Enterprise Agreement 2022, the new agreement that was ratified and commenced in the latter half of 2023. The impact on the school offering is associated with Clause 59.3 of the agreement detailing a significant change associated with Time in lieu (TIL) for teachers. Any structured activity outside of the normal day, such as camps, production, excursions, sport, practice, rehearsals, and parent teacher interviews, entitles the staff involved to receive TIL.

Given CMCB's considerable co-curricular program and number of excursions and camps mandated in certain subjects within the curriculum, the impost and cost is significant. Other added pressures include the reduction in teacher face-to-face time, a reduction in extra classes that staff can be allocated and of course the well-publicised shortage in relief teachers and qualified teachers generally. The challenge is constant in maintaining staffing, timetables and classes. We are grateful that our general curriculum program has not been significantly compromised and we are constantly advertising and interviewing prospective staff to ensure that there are no interruptions.

The College has taken every measure to ensure that curriculum offerings are not compromised. However, there has been an impact on our co-curricular programs.

The Year 7 camp was reduced to one evening.

The Year 9 Camp has been shortened and localised to an overnight stay and an encounter week. Previously students went to Portland and spent days travelling to and from the camp location.

Camps and/or retreats at Year 8, 10, 11 and 12 have been maintained as in previous years.

Another challenge associated with camps and any overnight program is the number of students who do not attend. There has been a steady growth in absences to co-curricular activities and camps that are mandated in certain subjects. In 2023 only 61% of the Year 9 students attended the camp and for the Year 11 camp held earlier this year, attendance was less than 70%.

The Whole School Production program, held at the Capital Theatre, has been altered and will now occur biannually. In 2024, a School Play, will be presented onsite at the Marian Theatre over two evening performances and a matinee. The Production generates considerable TIL given the scope and time involved in the whole school event.

COOLOCK

Years 7-9
1 St Vincent's Road, Junortoun 3551

ST MARY'S

Years 10-12
164 Barkly Street, Bendigo 3550

A Ministry of Mercy Education Ltd
ABN 69 154 531 870

At this point, given the nature of sports events being scheduled during the school day, this program has been maintained. Parents may be asked to attend and support certain events if there is significant travel for finals etc.

Please understand that we are constantly reviewing our programs and offerings to ensure that a variety of opportunities are being provided. Maintaining our fees and offerings is a priority. We thank our families for their support and understanding.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian Turner".

Brian Turner
Principal