



From the desk of the Principal

22 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As you are aware, we are working hard to prepare for the possibility that we may need to move at some stage to more flexible learning arrangements, including remote learning. With this in mind the Minister for Education has approved the extension of the holidays with an additional two pupil-free days. This move is supported by Catholic Education Commission, Victoria (CECV).

At this stage these days will bookend holidays, with the final day of term one now Thursday, March 26. Students will return for term two on Wednesday, April 15.

On these days, teachers and leadership will be working on current plans to continue to provide an educational program to your children, if schools are closed for a period of time.

During the term break the cleaning team is planning to undertake a deep clean of all three campuses. This includes all desks, telephones and surfaces and student lockers. To assist with this task, we are sourcing hospital grade cleaning materials that will kill all pathogens on surfaces within sixty seconds. With this in mind parents are asked to remind their child to clear their locker of all belongings (including the padlock) by the end of the school day on Thursday March 26. This includes their laptop and charger.

Latest news

I am aware that news sources this afternoon are broadcasting that the Premier Daniel Andrews has recommended that all Victorian schools will shut from Tuesday March 24 amid the coronavirus pandemic and that he will push for a nationwide consensus of closing classrooms before school holidays are due to begin. I will issue further instructions on confirmation of this matter from DET and CECV.

Gratitude

I extend my heartfelt thanks to the St Joseph's College leadership teams for the pro-active, considered and professional leadership that they have displayed in the course of the current crisis. Their leadership has allowed us to proceed with minimal disruption ensuring the preparedness of the college to face the next stage of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I also wish to express admiration and gratitude for the manner in which the teaching and non-teaching staff have selflessly gone above and beyond their commitment to the pastoral and educational needs of your son/daughter. Our staff have been remarkable in the way that they have demonstrated commitment to their students with strong attendance and minimal disruption to classes.

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I am most grateful for the overwhelming support and the encouragement that we have received from the vast number of families and parents in our community. Worldwide, there has been a huge amount of commentary, debate and uncertainty surrounding this issue. At times like this we all know that it is especially important to avoid the temptation to make comments on social media with personal opinion or commentary regarding COVID-19. I am thankful to those families that have contacted the college directly with any concerns or questions regarding individual requirements and support. Your calm and considered responses are a true reflection of the exemplary intelligent parenting that we have come to expect from our parents.

With all good wishes and blessings



Mrs Marg Blythman
Principal