



ST JOSEPH'S  
COLLEGE MILDURA

*From the desk of the Principal*

Monday March 23, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

**In line with the State, we will be concluding Term One classes on Monday 23 March 2020, and commencing the school holidays early.** I acknowledge that this short notice may cause inconvenience for families, but we need to follow State advice. At this point the students are due to commence Term Two on Wednesday, 15 April 2020. Please continue checking updated messages from the College through Skoolbag, direct messages and emails, as we will keep you informed of any new information and arrangements as the situation unfolds over the next few weeks.

It is expected that staff will use the next four days for planning and preparation for the likely transition to flexible and remote learning.

Across Australia, and indeed the world, the global pandemic that is the Coronavirus – COVID19 - has revealed both the worst and the best sides of humanity. Whilst we have all seen images of shopping selfishness, we have also seen the kindness of friends and strangers.

I am very fortunate to be the Principal of a college community that has rallied together, indeed displaying tangibly the school values we so often speak about such as hospitality, justice, compassion and inclusiveness. Our parent community has been amazing – you have supported each initiative to its fullest and I thank you. Our staff have also taken on board the unique challenges these times are presenting us with both a sense of justice and a desire to roll up their sleeves and keep delivering learning to our students - as usual as is possible in such unusual circumstances; the deployment of an entire online curriculum is being achieved with no fuss or acclaim by teams of staff working for a common good. Our students, your sons and daughters too have faced each challenge not as an individual but as a community, looking towards the common good. We have every faith that they will be active in their ability to participate in online learning.

These are difficult times but good news stories abound at St Joseph's College because the collective good a crisis calls for, has been answered in simple everyday acts of working together, showing kindness, being inclusive and recognising the bonds that draw us together. As I said before, I certainly am blessed to lead such a wonderful community.

I wish all families abundant blessings of hope and joy as we enter the Easter season. I encourage you all to make sure that Easter Day is extra special this year, knowing that as a Mercy community we shall be celebrating together no matter how far apart we may be.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs Marg Blythman**  
Principal