

From: Heath McClair <hmcclair@sjcmda.vic.edu.au>
Sent: Sunday, 22 March 2020 4:29 PM
To: Year7; Year8; Year9; Year10; Year11; Year12
Cc: Teachers
Subject: UPDATE: Final week of term - messages

Dear Students,

A message from Mrs Blythman has been sent to your parents and guardians this afternoon via SkoolBag.

Like yourselves, the college is keeping up to date with new information continually being updated and distributed via various media sources.

As you know, to ensure your learning is not overly disrupted, the college has been working on a range of measures that will put in place in the event of an extended school closure.

At this stage 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). 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 the additional school closure days, teachers will continue working on current plans to provide your educational program.

Latest news

We are 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.

Mrs Blythman will issue further instructions on confirmation of this matter.

Thank you.

Heath McClair

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From: Heath McClair
Sent: Sunday, 22 March 2020 2:12 PM
To: Year7 ; Year8 ; Year9 ; Year10 ; Year11 ; Year12
Cc: Teachers
Subject: Final week of term - messages

Dear Students,

I trust that you are all having a restful weekend.

As a busy term comes to an end, I would like to thank every student for the contribution that you have made to the college.

We are living through a uncertain time with the current restrictions that have been placed on all of us as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please be aware that the college is acting on current advice from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee and the Victorian Chief Health Officer, Dr Brett Sutton, that schools remain open. This advice is constantly under review, and the college would act accordingly if this advice were to change. If a school closure was to occur, the college has a range of measures that we would put in place to ensure student learning is not disrupted.

A few points to note for your last week of term;

Cleaning over the school holidays (as mentioned in the Daily Messages)

During the school holidays the school will undertake a deep clean of all facilities. We ask students to ensure they take their laptop, school bag and all belongings home. We also ask students to ensure they remove their lock from their locker. If the locker is locked, we will be unable to clean it. We also ask students to work with Homeroom teachers to ensure classrooms including desks and work areas are as clean as possible.

Social distancing

Health authorities recommend trying to keep a distance of 1.5 metres from another person, avoid handshakes and other unnecessary close contact. We acknowledge that this is very difficult and in some circumstances impossible to manage in a school environment. We encourage students continue with the elbow bump, which has replaced the handshake.

Good hygiene

Health authorities recommend we all wash our hands thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds to prevent passing on germs, then drying our hands. We have some isolated incidents where male students have used the toilets inappropriately at the Enright campus late last week. I remind all students that the toilet resources belong to all members of the community, and it is a shared responsibility to ensure we look take care of our facilities.

SJC Feast Day events and SJC Feast Day Mass

Due to the current restrictions in place, in the best interests of student safety and wellbeing we have decided that the Feast day events on Thursday 30 April and the Feast day Mass on Friday May 1 will be cancelled. I thank you for all your efforts and planning that has already gone into these great celebrations, and can assure you that these efforts will assist with the organisation and planning of these events in 2021.

Offering students ongoing wellbeing support

We are aware that some students and community members have heightened levels of concern and anxiety regarding the many impacts of the current COVID-19 pandemic. These thoughts and feelings are normal and understandable, and some students may feel overwhelmed and unable to adequately express their concerns. We encourage you to seek the support of your teachers, and the college wellbeing services.

Thank you and have a good week.

Heath McClair

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