

*From the desk of the Principal*

24 April 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

I hope you, your friends and family are safe and well. In my letter today, I have included an initiative from the college to support our Year 12 students and our wider community as well as news of our improved recording of attendance.

We are immensely proud of the way in which our students have approached online learning. It *is* different and there are challenges along the way but we are overcoming these as we learn how to navigate our new learning environment.

Our staff have been exemplary in their approach to the preparation for working from home. They have been working diligently to try to ensure that the lessons that they deliver are as close as possible to the experience your child would have at school. We are truly blessed to have such a dedicated and committed team of teachers working to support your child/ren's ongoing learning.

Thank you for your support and patience over this time.

### **A MESSAGE TO OUR YEAR 12 STUDENTS**

**I was delighted to be able to write to our Year 12 students with this initiative.**

"Well, you did it! You survived another week. We are also feeling happy to have almost made it to the end of another week. As they say .... We can do hard things.



And hard things are easier to do together. We have had a few challenges this past week, but watching our community grow in resilience and strength has been inspirational.

I am very proud of the manner in which you have embraced online learning. As a way of saying thank you, and to let you know that we are thinking of you, we have put together a small pack containing your Year 12 tie and some homemade chocolate chip cookies. We were hoping to distribute your rugby tops, but they are still on their way from China. You will be the first to know when they arrive!

If you are well and would like to visit the Mercy Campus to collect your pack from Mr Ficarra and Mr McClair, you are most welcome to do so. Please ensure you enter via the Eleventh Street carpark and remember to apply the hand sanitiser located at the entrance to the salon. Social distancing rules apply. If you are unable to attend, please email Mrs Aston and we will arrange to deliver your Connection Cookies pack.

Collection times are as follows; Friday April 24, 1.00pm to 4.30pm and Monday April 27, 9.00am to 4.00pm. Thanks to our amazing staff who have worked hard to make this concept happen. It is just one way we can support you. Blessings to everyone."

## **COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS HOSPITALITY PROGRAM**

In conjunction with our catering and kitchen team, the Mercy Action Group, are pleased to announce the Community Connections Hospitality Program. Families now have the opportunity to order a soup, main meal and sweet treat for someone who, at this time, may be socially isolated or vulnerable in the community – perhaps a grandparent, friend, family member, relative or a loved one. There is no cost for this service and we will arrange for contactless delivery (local addresses only). We ask parents to discuss the importance of this outreach initiative with your children. If you wish to nominate a person or family, please complete the accompanying order form and submit online as per the instructions. With the launch of this program, we are initially limiting the order to one per family.

## **FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL, STUDENTS – MR HEATH McCLAER**

As a result of a roll marking and attendance review, we have updated our parental notification process. An SMS message will be sent to parents during period 1 after 35 minutes if a student is marked absent.

- An SMS message will be sent to Year 12 parents' period 2 on a Wednesday and Year 11 parents' period 2 on a Friday – the Year 11 and 12 students have Academe during period 1 on these days and so a roll is not taken during the online learning period.
- SMS messages will not be sent for any other period throughout the day.

Homeroom (HR)/Pastoral Care Group (PCG) teachers will continue to monitor overall attendance as per the process outlined below.

If a **student misses three consecutive days** without parent notification:

- Home Room (HR)/Pastoral Care Group (PCG) teachers will contact parents, and notify the respective House Leader (HL).

If a **student misses individual classes** (possible truancy):

- PCG/HR teacher will notify the HL with concerns and email the classroom teacher to confirm absence/truancy.
- HL will contact parents, and an online learning reflection will be sent home if deemed necessary.

We trust that this will alleviate any future concerns with multiple SMS's sent to parents.

## **FINALLY**

Thank you to all those parents who have shared their positive feedback with our community. Together, let us continue to give our young people a sense of hope about the future.

God bless



**Mrs Marg Blythman**  
Principal