

From the desk of the Principal

29 May 2020

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Dear Parents and caregivers

It has been an absolute delight to welcome staff and students to the college this week. Their warmth, enthusiasm and excitement has created a positive and beautiful energy around the place. As we start the return to normality there are still many people with worries and anxiety about the future. It is encouraging to see that COVID-19 infections remain low in Victoria and our hope is that as this continues, we will see the lifting of some of the restrictions that will then allow us to restart extracurricular activities, assemblies and possibly even camps in the future. These are events that enhance learning, and allow students to pursue their passions and dreams so wherever possible, we are doing our best to reschedule these events.

CLEANING AND HYGIENE

The college will continue to ensure that environmental cleaning practices are in place, with enhanced routines where necessary. Students will be required to continue with hygiene practices and this will be re-emphasised consistently throughout the day.

CULTURE OF SAFETY

Remote Learning presents an opportunity to improve child safe policies, shape curriculum around digital citizenship and weave best online practices across everyday instruction.

The Catholic Education Office Ballarat (CEOB) only recently changed and updated their advice for Video Conference Recordings. This new directive states that recordings of video conferences should only be made if all parents/caregivers have provided express permission to do so. This includes (as part of the permission process) advising parents/care givers what the recordings will be used for and where they will be stored.

We appreciate that you may have questions relating to the reason and timing of the directive from the CEOB. This added safety component reflects the regular security updates that Zoom, Google Meets, Teams meeting etc., use to ensure cyber safety. With emerging technologies, we expect that protocols to protect privacy and safety will develop and improve with widespread use.

Despite the many vulnerabilities to data privacy that exist in a remote learning environment, we know that there are steps we must take to best ensure the safety of our students. The hope is that when these tools are implemented, they are used appropriately, not naively. Our immediate development and distribution of a college wide interactive PDF permission form is reflective of this belief. It is another way we can care for your child/ren in our school environment.

NCCD AND SWD

Within this permission form you will note a reference to the above acronyms. Every year, all schools in Australia participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) on School Students with Disability (SWD). The NCCD process requires schools to identify information already available in the school about supports provided to students with disability. These relate to legislative requirements under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the Disability Standards for Education 2005, in line with the *NCCD guidelines* (2019).

Information provided about students to the Australian Government for the NCCD includes:

- year of schooling
- category of disability: physical, cognitive, sensory or social/emotional
- level of adjustment provided: support provided within quality differentiated teaching practice, supplementary, substantial or extensive

This information assists schools to:

- formally recognise the supports and adjustments provided to students with disability in school
- consider how they can strengthen the support of students with disability in schools
- develop shared practices so that they can review their learning programs in order to improve educational outcomes for students with disability

The NCCD provides state and federal governments with the information they need to plan more broadly for the support of students with disability.

The NCCD will have no direct impact on your child and your child will not be involved in any testing process. The school will provide data to the Australian Government in such a way that no individual student will be able to be identified – the privacy and confidentiality of all students is ensured. All information is protected by privacy laws that regulate the collection, storage and disclosure of personal information. To find out more about these matters, please refer to the [Australian Government's Privacy Policy](#)

Further information about the NCCD can be found on the [NCCD Portal](#).

If you have any questions about the NCCD, please contact the Head of Learning Diversity, [Ms Melanie Saleta](#). Questions about the permission form may be directed to the Deputy Principal - Learning and Teaching, [Mr Greg Kluske](#).

FINALLY

The best times for us as educators are when our students are all here, co-curricular is in full swing and the hustle and bustle of school life, with all its face-to-face interactions, takes centre stage. We look forward to returning to the joy of a vibrant college as soon as is safe and practicable.

I hope you and your family have a peaceful and restful weekend.

God bless



Mrs Marg Blythman
Principal