



ST JOSEPH'S
COLLEGE MILDURA

From the desk of the Principal

22 May 2020

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Dear Parents and caregivers

Tuesday will be an exciting time as our students reunite with their friends, peers and teachers, and our college begins to return to being a vibrant Catholic learning community.

You have been incredibly supportive of remote learning over the past several weeks. I know many will join me in looking forward to the return to the school routine and classroom-based teaching.

The period of remote learning, while challenging in some ways, has strengthened the sense of partnership we have with our parents in the education process. I am very proud of our team here at St Joseph's College, who have done an enormous amount of work to keep our students progressing with their learning and now preparing for their return.

Our teachers are also very aware that some students will need extra support when they return and we will monitor each child's progress closely.

Please be reassured that St Joseph's College will operate within the Victorian Government's recommended COVID-19 safety guidelines, including around hygiene practices, social distancing and restricted access to the school site.

I also remind any parents and guardians who are experiencing financial hardship as a result of COVID-19 to please contact our Business Manager, Mr David Lim to discuss fee relief arrangements.

Years 7 to 10 will return to St Joseph's College from Tuesday June 9 in the second stage of the return to onsite schooling. Students in these year levels that are currently attending the college for onsite supervision may continue to do so in the Enright Campus Library during the two-week period from Tuesday May 26 to Tuesday June 9.

Detailed information about the return to Catholic schools in Victoria and COVID-19 can be found on the CECV website.

USEFUL WEBSITE

The Covid-19: *We've got this covered!* Website is a collaboration between Macquarie University's [Centre for Emotional Health](#) and [School of Education](#), based on feedback from over 350 young people, parents and teachers. Director, Professor Jennie Hudson states "From our survey responses, 52% of parents felt they would benefit from more information about how to help their children keep mentally healthy during this time."

They offer freely accessible, evidence-based information for Australian families and schools. Their aim is to provide [focused strategies](#) to help prevent anxiety and depression in children and young people during the COVID-19 crisis. We have included advice around emotional boredom and eating in this week's edition of Remote Learning Ready #6.

IN CLOSING

We appreciate that this has and continues to be a very difficult time for you and your family. I am sure, like me, you are pleased and relieved to see how we as a nation have so far managed to contain the spread of COVID-19. It is with great pride that I have watched our dedicated and vigilant staff care for the safety and wellbeing of our students and each other, during this time. In these challenging times, we appreciate your support as we care for one another, your children and the staff who care for them.

God bless

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Blythman', with a long, sweeping underline.

Mrs Marg Blythman
Principal