

From the desk of the Principal

20 August 2020

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Dear St Joseph's College families

Overall, this year will be a challenging one for the college. True to our Mercy values, we have continued to support our families who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Please refer to the attached letter to learn more about the college's approach to fees for this year.

FAMILY SUPPORT

As per previous [communications](#), I again encourage you to contact me if you are finding your family's financial situation difficult to manage with regard to school fees. Amongst all the worries that we have at this time – worrying about the payment of school fees should not be one of those things. We are all concerned about the many families in our St Joseph's College community who are finding things tough at the moment, particularly where employment issues are present. If you know of any families in our community who are in need of significant support, please feel free to email [me](#). Alternatively, you may wish to refer to the [letter](#) and [fee assistance form](#) available on our [website](#).

If you would like to provide practical support to a family or a loved one in the community – perhaps a grandparent, friend or relative who is socially isolated, please do not hesitate to order a meal through our [Community Connections Hospitality Program](#). There is no cost for this service and we will arrange for contactless delivery.

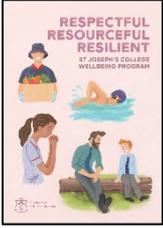
COMMITMENT TO YOUR CHILD

Please be assured, your child matters to us. Your family matters to us. Our absolute commitment is that we will support your child in their learning and well-being at this difficult time whether they are physically at school or at home. We know that there has been and will be very difficult times ahead for some of our families, so please let us know if there is anything at all we can do as a school to assist you. As I have said previously, it is together and in partnership with one another that we will make the best of these unique times.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

On May 7, we launched our Fit & Focused booklet. Remaining active is instrumental to staying happy and well during remote learning. We developed this booklet to provide ideas for exercise and nutrition and how you can introduce them into your everyday life. Be sure to revisit this booklet and introduce some fun into your remote learning experience. You can access this via our website or simply click on the booklet image.





To further enhance your wellbeing, we have also developed our Wellbeing Booklet which highlights the importance of looking after yourself mentally, socially and spiritually as well as physically. This booklet outlines our approach to wellbeing through our whole school and year level programs. You can view this booklet by visiting the college website or simply click on the booklet image.

REMOTE LEARNING MODEL SURVEY

Feedback from our fortnightly Online Learning student update has indicated that students have again risen magnificently to the challenges that remote learning brings. A vital aspect of the feedback around remote learning focused on the wellbeing of our students and the need to rest, recharge and reconnect. We are acutely aware of the many messages that are being presented by both Governments and the medical professionals about the need to look after our wellbeing, particularly our physical, mental and spiritual health.

In line with this, I am advising our families, that next **Friday August 28** will be a Remote Learning Free Day for students. On this day, we encourage our students to make use of the many links to ideas and activities in the booklets mentioned in this letter. Some students may wish to take the opportunity to catch up or complete work they have begun. This will, however, be a day when they will not be expected to email, log into SIMON or attend a Zoom or Google Classroom.

Students that have been completing their remote learning on-site will not be able to come into the college on the Remote Learning Free Day. Teaching and learning staff will be committed to their planning and preparation obligations and as such will not be available on email or other platforms on this day.

FINALLY

I thank you for your support of our students and the college during this most unusual and trying year. I trust that this commitment will provide some good news and emphasise the college's commitment to the critical partnership we have with you in support of your child's education. Parent support at St Joseph's College is always strong, but this term it has been truly exceptional. We deeply appreciate the way that parents have juggled family and work commitments to support their child in their learning. Please do not hesitate to contact [me](#), or the Business Manager, [Mr David Lim](#) to discuss any of these matters further.

God bless

Mrs Marg Blythman
Principal