

From the desk of the Principal

18 September 2020

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Dear St Joseph College families

Term 3 has been a challenging period for all of us but, as we reach its end and look forward with hope to Term 4, I would like to express my gratitude for all of the support you have offered to the staff at the college.

Term 4 return

Whether we are teaching remotely or face-to-face, our focus is ensuring every student is supported in their wellbeing, learning and transition needs.

As the return to onsite schooling is linked to the average daily case rate, we must continue to follow the restrictions and wear masks where required. We will also need to be agile, as subject to the advice of the Victorian Chief Health Officer, dates and specifics may change in the coming weeks.

As we are a secondary school in regional Victoria, the specifics of our return will be different from the schools in metropolitan Melbourne, so I am providing the following guidance, which is subject to change.

Saturday 19 September – Sunday 4 October

- Term 3 school holidays.

Monday 5 October – Friday 9 October

- **Year 11 and 12 students and those Year 10 students studying VCE or VCAL subjects will return to onsite learning for essential assessment tasks.** Students involved in these assessments will be advised accordingly.
- The onsite supervision program that ran in Term 3 for vulnerable children and children of permitted workers will be available.
- Our remote learning plan will recommence from 5 October for all other students.
- **The GAT will be held on site for Unit 3/4 VCE students on Wednesday 7 October.**
- All secondary school students who are attending on site will need to wear a face covering, including when travelling to and from school.
- Parents and carers will be required to wear face coverings whenever they leave the house, including for school drop-off and pick-up.

Monday 12 October

- **All students, including Years 7 to 10, VCE, VET and VCAL students, will return to onsite learning.**
- Following the advice of Victoria's Chief Health Officer, students at schools will receive a temperature check every morning, with thermometers provided by the state government.
- Face coverings will continue to be required.

As on-site schooling resumes, we will continue to have in place strong measures to protect the health and safety of students, staff, families and the community. This includes continued emphasis on hand hygiene and physical distancing where possible. If you, your child or a family member develop symptoms of fever, chills or sweats, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, or loss of smell or taste, please get tested at a coronavirus (COVID-19) testing facility and stay home.

I will continue to provide updates when required and as specifics or changes are confirmed.

My gratitude

Once again, I would like to thank all our families for your support and patience during what has been a very trying year. We hope that the holiday break brings a welcome opportunity to focus beyond ourselves, to have some fun and to give thanks for the small mercies that we enjoy.

I hope that you have the chance to get out and enjoy the joys of warm spring days. My prayer for you these school holidays is that you remain safe and well, that you find joy as we move around more freely. With an ease in restrictions it will be lovely to finally visit family - something that I imagine many of you will do.



Prayer for the end of Term 3

We thank you, Lord, for this term. For the challenges, our successes, and the mistakes from which we have learned. Be with us as we spend our time with family and friends.

Give us strength and courage to do what is right: to be witnesses of our faith.

Help us to appreciate what others do for us, to give time and effort to help others. To be peacemakers in our family.

Keep us safe in our activities; give us good rest and good fun.

Bring us back refreshed and ready for a new term. We thank you for our classmates, teachers, parents, and a community that cares for us.

May we always be conscious of you in our lives.

Amen.

God bless

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mrs Marg Blythman".

Mrs Marg Blythman
Principal