

7 October 2020

Dear St Joseph's College families

We look forward to welcoming **all** students back to face-to-face learning on **Monday October 12**. We acknowledge and thank the efforts of all students, families and staff for your resilience and persistence through the remote learning period.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Masks

As directed by the Chief Health Officer, Dr Brett Sutton, all secondary school students aged 12 years and over must wear a mask while at school and while travelling to and from school.

Some students and staff are exempt from these requirements. This includes students who are over the age of 12 and unable to wear a face mask due to the nature of their disability. This also includes students or staff who have a medical condition, such as problems with their breathing, a serious skin condition on the face, a disability or a mental health condition.

If students are unable to wear a mask due to the conditions stated above, a medical note or a statutory declaration must be provided to college stating this. Students will then be given a laminated pass to ensure teachers are made aware and they are not queried.

Common questions about when masks are required to be worn;

Do I need to wear the face covering in class? Yes, however you will be permitted to remove the mask if giving an oral presentation as directed by the teacher.

Do I need to wear a face mask while playing sport or using the gym? Yes, however students are permitted to remove the mask if completing physical activity where you are out of breath or puffing. You must put the mask back on following the physical activity.

Do I need to wear a face mask in other practical subjects e.g. Drama, Dance or Music? Yes, however students will be permitted to remove the mask in music if singing, or performing a drama performance as directed by the teacher.

Do I need to wear a mask in common areas e.g. Library, Year 11 and 12 common rooms? Yes

How do I eat and drink wearing a mask? The mask can be removed to eat, drink and take medication. As with physical activity, it needs to be put back on afterwards.

Do I need to wear a face mask at recess and lunch? Yes, however you can remove it to eat/drink, and for physical activity as per arrangements for playing sport.

Do I need to wear it to and from school? Yes, students catching the bus, walking or driving with anyone not in your immediate family. If you are driving only on your own or with your immediate family, you do not need to wear a mask.

What type of mask will be permitted? A face mask that covers the nose and mouth is the only permitted type of face covering. Face shields, scarves or bandanas do not meet these requirements. Please note that face coverings with offensive language or symbols will not be permitted e.g. skulls.

Do I need to wear a mask if I wear glasses? Yes, if the mask is worn correctly, it should not cause fogging. Make sure the face covering is fitted and pinched on your nose if possible. Put your glasses on after the mask. Wash your glasses with detergent and water to create a film to prevent fogging.

Can I be asked to remove my mask? Yes, a teacher can request you remove your mask for educational purposes or to identify students.

Will the college be providing masks? No, it is the expectation that families will organise face coverings for their children.

What will happen if I do not bring a mask or refuse to wear one (without medical exception)? Students will be sent home.

What happens if my mask breaks? The college has a small number of disposable masks, and these will be provided in these circumstances.

Please note that when a mask is removed for any reason, it is recommended that it is placed in a clean zip lock bag. The mask should be handled using the ear loops or ties only. Also see the attached document in relation to wearing a fabric mask appropriately. If wearing a disposable mask, these are only suitable for a maximum of four hours if they have not been soiled.

Uniform

We appreciate that you have supported and followed the College Uniform Policy during the remote learning period, and we hope that this has assisted you to get into a ready for learning mindset. The same high expectations of uniform and compliance with the College Mobile Phone Policy will be in place upon your return to face-to-face learning. I would like to remind you that if you have any queries or concerns in relation to uniform requirements to please read over the uniform policy that can be located on the college website.

A few specific reminders in relation to the uniform;

- As students will be wearing the summer uniform, ties and blazers are not required.
- Summer dress at or below the knee.
- Students are required to wear the college hat while outdoors during recess, lunch and during outdoor PE activities.
- Coloured nail polish/nail extensions are not permitted.
- Earrings are limited to small plain spherical gold/silver studs or sleepers for pierced ears (ear lobe only).
- Year 12 students are permitted to wear the rugby jumper throughout Term 4.

Cleaning

As per the previous arrangement, each classroom will have an approved hand sanitiser, and students will be encouraged to sanitise their hands at the beginning and end of every class. Hand sanitiser will also be available in common rooms. The drinking mechanism has been disabled on the water fountains, and will now only allow for bottle refills. We strongly encourage you to bring your own reusable water bottle.

Desks will be wiped down at the end of each lesson, and desks will be cleaned at the end of the day by the college cleaners. The college has also employed additional cleaners to clean high use areas such as door handles and toilet areas.

In the unlikely event that we need to return to remote learning for a short time as the result of a school closure, we ask students only bring what they need to school each day, and take it home with them.

Temperature checking

Students are **not** required to be temperature checked on arrival at school.

Morning homeroom and Academe

Morning homeroom and Academe will recommence from Monday October 12.

Wellbeing support

The Wellbeing Team are eager to support students in their transition back to face-to-face learning. Students that would like to access wellbeing support for the first time, or who have not accessed wellbeing support recently are welcome and encouraged to contact wellbeing via email wellbeing@sjcmda.vic.edu.au

Buses

Buses will be running as scheduled following the same timetables as prior to the remote learning period.

Canteen

The canteen services including lunch orders will return to normal operations.

Afterschool study

Students will be permitted to use the library until 5.45pm and the Year 12 common room until 4.30pm as per the previous arrangements.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H. McClair', written in a cursive style.

Mr Heath McClair
Deputy Principal Students