



From the desk of the Principal

14 February 2021

ENRIGHT CAMPUS
154 TWELFTH STREET
MILDURA VICTORIA 3500

MERCY CAMPUS
CORNER RIVERSIDE AVENUE
& ELEVENTH STREET
MILDURA VICTORIA 3500

VCAL CAMPUS
8-10 LANGTREE PARADE
MILDURA VICTORIA 3500

T 03 5018 8000
E reception@sjcmda.vic.edu.au

sjcmda.vic.edu.au

Dearest St Joseph College families,

I hope you are safe and well.

On Friday February 13, the Victorian Government announced new directions to prevent the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). While I am sure you will agree this is not the ideal way to start the 2021 school year, I know that swift and responsive action will help us avoid many of the difficulties our communities faced last year.

As a result, in line with the directions issued from Victoria's Chief Health Officer, all Victorian schools have moved to a period of remote and flexible provision from **Monday 15 February to Wednesday 17 February inclusive**.

At St Joseph's College, **Monday February 15** will be a Staff Professional Practice Day and a Student Home Study Day (Year 12 English Orals withstanding). On Tuesday February 16 and Wednesday February 17 students and staff will revert to Remote Learning. You will receive further information tomorrow about the implementation of this program.

REMOTE LEARNING

There is no question that COVID-19 has provided many challenges to school communities. I can assure you that at this time, we are well placed to implement a remote learning program.

During 2020, I was continually impressed by the professionalism of our staff as they delivered education in a range of ways designed to minimise the impact on our students. They demonstrated their ability to be adaptive, caring and professional and I am pleased by, and proud of how they rose to the challenge.

WELLBEING

Our focus is on the [wellbeing](#) of students, staff and families and how our community is feeling during this challenging time. The learnings and experience of the last year have proved that our school community is resilient, reliable and responsive.

As we embark on the remote model of teaching and learning for the next few days, be reassured that the College staff are doing all they can to provide for continuous learning opportunities for all students, maintain connections and promote and support the wellbeing of students.

THE HOME-SCHOOL CONNECTION HAS NEVER BEEN MORE CRITICAL

More than ever before, education is a shared responsibility between the family and the college. A high degree of mutual respect, support and communication plays an essential role in the continuity of learning for our students. Within this letter are two key publications which we ask that you take the time to read through together with your children:

1. Remote Learning Ready Guide

This [guide](#) provides the rationale that underpins our Remote Learning Model and the practicalities of how this will be implemented to support remote learning and teaching. Please be mindful that the only change to this guide relates to the wearing of the college summer uniform.

2. Fit and Focused – Health and Wellbeing during Remote Learning

This [handbook](#) is to support and promote maintaining a healthy lifestyle through exercise and diet while learning at home.

Both these handbooks and other resources related to learning from home are available on the [college website](#) under the [COVID-19 information page](#).

Further communication will occur via various methods, including Skoolbag, email, SIMON, PAM and the college website.

IN CLOSING

We continue to follow the advice of the Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) regarding the spread and response to COVID-19. We are also monitoring the advice of the Australian and Victorian Governments, the Catholic Education Office and Mercy Education Limited. We will continue to communicate with you as decisions are made.

The health of and safety of the people we support and care for comes first, so please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further queries.

On behalf of the St Joseph's College community, I wish you and your family all the best. Thank you again for your support and cooperation.

Ever blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mrs Marg Blythman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mrs Marg Blythman
Principal