



From the desk of the Principal

29 August 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@sjcnda.vic.edu.au

sjcnda.vic.edu.au

Dear St Joseph College families

On-site attendance for preparation and participation in Permitted Essential Assessments

The Acting Chief Health Officer (CHO) has approved the conduct of a restricted list of Permitted Essential Assessments at the college from tomorrow Monday, 30 August 2021. In conducting Permitted Essential Assessments onsite, we must follow all COVID-Safe Settings and Department of Education and Training guidelines (including guidance as outlined in the School Operations Guide) as well as specific Health Controls for Essential Assessments. Due to the number of mystery cases in the community and the large number of young people impacted in this outbreak, additional public health measures for Victorian students undergoing onsite assessments this week will be in place.

The Health Controls include:

- For assessments on site on **Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday** the preference is for students to have a COVID-19 test prior to attending onsite, if possible. If this is not possible, students must be tested immediately after being onsite (and no later than 48 hours after). **At St Joseph's College, none of the permitted subjects have School Assessed Coursework (SAC) scheduled for early this week so please expect further updates.**
- For students with assessments onsite from **Thursday/Friday** this week, students must be tested in the 72 hours before attending onsite for assessments.
- **Evidence of a negative test result is not required before the assessment but must be provided to the college on request.** Students can attend the assessment with their test result still pending but must advise the college immediately if they subsequently receive a positive result. This asymptomatic, surveillance testing approach is one currently used during outbreak periods and as such, students are not required to isolate after they get tested while they wait for their result.
- All Permitted Essential Assessments to be conducted onsite are capped at a maximum of 10 participants per session.

COVID-19 testing sites have been informed of these requirements and will not require students to provide evidence to support asymptomatic testing.

Performing Arts studies have been prioritised due to performance examinations starting on 4 October 2021.

Permitted Essential Assessment for attendance onsite from **Monday, 30 August 2021** in Performing Arts studies at Unit 3/4 level only.

- Dance
- Dance (VCE VET)
- Drama
- Music Performance
- Music Investigation
- Music Performance (VCE VET)
- Theatre Studies

We are aware of the significant challenges and acknowledge the practical requirements in other studies, and plan to progressively add studies with practical assessment requirements that can only be completed onsite as soon as possible. This will be determined on the advice of the Chief Health Officer.

Other studies considered a priority include science studies with practical components, Visual Arts, Design and Technologies as well as VCE and VCAL students enrolled in VET programs that require significant practical learning and assessment.

Children of Essential Workers

At this time there are no changes to the arrangements for students attending the college during lockdown.

In closing

The decisions that come with changes outside our control can be challenging at times. Your support, feedback and understanding are of great support to us.

We will endeavour to update you as further news comes to light. If you feel that your child requires wellbeing support, please reach out to our [wellbeing team](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the college during business hours on 5018 8000 or the Head of VCE, VET and VCAL, Mr Mel Ficarra via [email](#).

Every blessing

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