

WHAT MACKILLOP WILL LOOK LIKE AFTER 23 MARCH

Dear Parents & Carers,

As of the end of Monday 23 March, MacKillop Catholic College will be operating very differently than it has at any time in the past. We need to offer important directions with support for everyone: our students, staff and families are our priority to ensure that we are being totally responsible for everyone across the Australian community.

I have a number of things I need to make very clear to all families:

1. **Parents if it is at all possible, please keep your children at home.** The School will remain open to support families who have to attend work, or they have no other option than to send their children to School.
2. As of Tuesday 24 March, **the College will be offering home-based learning.** This learning option will be the same at School as it will be at home. We are endeavouring to offer equity for students as far as their learning status. Our Primary and Secondary parents will be offered an overview for how this will work in the next 24 hrs, and we are expecting to offer this access by the end of this week. Parents and students will be able to access this information via Google Classrooms. Learning Packages will be offered to our very young students, these packages will be made available via our Main Office area.
3. The School **will not look the same** for our daily operation. The students will be placed in a learning space allowing them to engage with the home-based learning. Extreme social distancing practices will be operating. Students will be kept at least 1.5 metres apart and possibly even further if the learning space allow for this set up.
4. The normal break activities will not be the same. **Students will not be allowed to play interactive games** such as handball or other connected games. The alternative for students attending school at break times will be that they can play individual games, and activities, drawing and reading or personal exercises such as skipping etc. The students will go to a designated area for these activities with a supervising staff member.
5. The **COMPASS platform will be an important referral point** for all students and parents.
6. Our Canteen may not be able to operate at all as the proprietor may decide to close this service. If the **Canteen is to operate then it will be placing an order only.**
7. Our Office staff will be arranged into teams. **The front windows of the Main Office and Finance Office will be closed,** and any enquiries will need to be attended to by phone or email. Collection and the dropping off work/assignments etc will be arranged through the front foyer of the Main Office.
8. **The Sick Bay will also have restrictions.** If a student is unwell or injured, they will be attended to by an Office staff member. With the concerns around COVID-19 any student other than those with a small injury requiring simple attention such as a cut or wound, will be sent home. Parents will need to ensure they are not sending a sick child to School.
9. **The staff are also being organised into teams** as many of them have children at home or they have a compromised health condition or a sick family member to care for. Some staff are in isolation at the moment as they may have travelled overseas, or a family member may have returned after being overseas. We have significant restrictions here. The College will always have executive members in attendance each day.

These are extremely testing times and I wish to offer my gratitude to the many parents and students who have offered their support, care and prayers for our MacKillop community. I am deeply appreciative to our MacKillop community for how we do things here.

What will happen for Term 2 and beyond will be a further update that we will communicate to all our families.

Please take special care of yourselves and your family.



Steve Todd
College Principal