



22 April 2020

## PREPARING OUR SCHOOL OPENING FOR TERM 2

Dear Parents & Carers,

Our College's leadership team on behalf of the entire staff, wish to send to each family our best wishes for this Easter Season. No doubt, Easter was a very different experience for everyone this year. Nevertheless, we hope that each of you were able to enjoy social distancing with some joy for being family, discovering all the important things about family life. Possibly, looking at life with the eyes of hope is an important Easter message.

Over the last two weeks of Term One and for the past week or so of the Easter break, our teachers and staff have been very busy preparing for how we expected to operate for Term Two. A great deal of work was prepared, and many staff upgraded their skills in offering remote learning to our students. We are indebted to the entire MacKillop staff for their resilience and their agility for engaging in this important process to support student learning. Things have changed somewhat with the positive approach Australians have taken to social distancing practices over the Easter break to manage COVID-19. Things will not return to what we took for granted for some considerable time yet but, there is a way forward that offers some semblance to our daily living that offers everyone some reassurance for the future.

**It is now important that we commence the preparation for allowing students to have some on site access to School beginning in Week 3 of this Term (11 May).**

We are looking at how this will look for all students from Kinder through to Year 12. There will be some important operational components to how we organise learning for all students both on site and for those working remotely from home.

There is an important underlying perspective for how schools may need to operate from this point onwards. The health and hygiene aspects for how all people should be managing their contact may well be the big change we need to make as a society. There will be a number of expectations in this area to protect the safety and wellbeing of every student, parent, teacher and staff member.

Our students will need to understand that school will require them to protect themselves and others by:

- If feeling unwell or displaying any symptoms of a cold or flu, that students must stay home. Students who display these symptoms at School will be sent home and parents need to be prepared to make the necessary arrangements to support their children.
- Hand-sanitising will be a regular expectation each and every day. Students will need to continue washing their hands regularly, apply hand-sanitiser at the start of each lesson or session.
- Social distancing practices will mean that students should not make physical contact with any other student or with their teachers.
- The break times will also be very different for students. The activities that will be allowed will exclude any physical contact with other students. Touch football is an example of this.

For the start of Term Two the following is now in place:

- **Monday 27 April remains a Pupil Free Day** so that teachers can meet and take the next step in how School will operate for Term 2.
- **Weeks 1 & 2 (28 April through to 8 May) will remain as HBL (Home-Based Learning) for all students** with the exemption of students whose parents are seen as essential workers. These students plus students from families who have no other options but to send their children to School will also be able to attend the College. All students will be screened on entry to the College with temperature

checks and students will be asked to either wash their hands or use hand-sanitiser before entering a classroom. Students will be seated separately in classrooms (at least 1.5m apart)

- **From Week 3 (11 May), we will be asking students (K-12) to attend School according to their House affiliation** (Fitzroy, Penola, Gesu, Alma, Temuka & Kincumber). Students and parents will see a new sign on the wall above the entry to the Administration Centre. It says, 'Welcome to MacKillop Country' and it is a small gesture of welcoming all our students according to their House group.
- **Student attendance and how this will look and operate in the Primary and Secondary will be quite different**, other than it will be arranged in House groups.
- **Primary Principal, Frank Cohen and Secondary Principal, Deb Ferguson will be sending through the details for daily operation to both students and families via COMPASS and email.**
- At the same time, **the College fully respects the decision of parents to keep their children at home** for the time being or possibly throughout all of Term 2. The HBL model will continue to support these students and families.
- **Our staff will be operating in teams across Primary and Secondary** to support both on site and HBL learning processes. This is a mammoth task and our staff have responded with much support for each other and for our students.
- **Similarly, our Office & Support Staff will be continuing to ensure the daily operation of the College.** There will be displayed protocols for how students, parents and visitors engage with our Office and Support staff. The College Library will also be opened and access to the Library will have important guidelines for how students can access resources. Any shared computers, technologies or learning spaces will also need to be regularly cleaned and these will be outlined to students.
- **There is an expectation that all toilets will be cleaned three times daily.** Our CSO is looking at how this will work across our system of schools and it will be important to keep all areas clean and sanitised.
- **There will not be any large assemblies, sporting representations, retreats, camps and excursions during Term 2.** Teachers and leaders are looking at replacement activities and events to continue offering engagement with these areas of school life.

We apologise for having to outline these conditions to all our families, but these will be vitally important for how we can continue to be a safe and healthy school community.

Included with this letter is an overview for the return of schools for Term 2 and beyond from the CSO. The overview offers a bigger picture of what may unfold over this term and possibly into Term 3.

Please do not hesitate to contact us by phone or email as we commence a new way of life at MacKillop for Term 2.

Please stay safe,

Steve Todd

College Principal

Frank Cohen

Primary Principal

Deb Ferguson

Secondary Principal