

## **Welcome to a new COVID Safe School Year**

Friday 22 January 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

It is with much anticipation for the safety and wellbeing of each and every member of the College community that we welcome you to the 2021 School Year. Any distress about Christmas and the New Year break now looks like it is well under control. It appears that Australians are learning and responding to how we can best manage and live with Coronavirus. The way Australia has responded to testing and for supporting the safety protocols is very reassuring for the way ahead in 2021. There is much hope for the future as we begin the new school year at MacKillop. This letter provides some details for how we will be managing the start of school.

It is our hope that many of the activities and events that went by the wayside during 2020 will now return to being part of school life once again. These activities to start off the year will still have some safety protocols and the College is very keen to abide by these requirements to ensure the safety of each person.

Our Catholic Schools Broken Bay with Catholic Schools NSW in conjunction with NSW Health and the State Government have put the guideline protocols in place for starting the School Year.

### **MacKillop Student Attendance & Parent Access**

- **All students are to attend School** unless they have a Medical Certificate or, if they are unwell. There is a chart attached to offer the guidelines for students who have flu-like symptoms.
- **All Primary students except Kinder students commence on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February** with an outside Assembly to welcome all students and staff. The Assembly will be held outdoors (weather permitting), and each group will follow the hygiene processes for entering classrooms. Parents are not to enter the school grounds beyond the Administration Area or Pick-Up/Drop-off zone.
- **Kindergarten students have their first day on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February.** Parents may accompany their child onto the School grounds and three zones will be organised for the three classroom groups, so as, not to have more than 30 people in any one group. Only parents and guardians can accompany their Kinder children.
- **Yr 7 students and any new Secondary students have their first day on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January.** Parents are only allowed to accompany their child to the Hall to drop them off. No parent is to remain on the College grounds after dropping off their child.
- **All Secondary students return on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February.** No parents are allowed onto the College grounds except to go to the Main Office or to the Uniform Shop.

### **Masks & Public Transport Expectations**

- **Students over the age of 12 years (Secondary) are expected to wear a face mask when travelling on Public Transport.**
- **Students who wish to wear masks during school hours are welcome to do so but, this is not mandatory.**

## Parent Meetings

- **During Week 4 of Term One, Primary parents will be able to attend Goal-Setting Meetings with their child's teacher.** A schedule for booking meeting times will be published to parents. These meeting will be held in the College Library

## College Welcoming Liturgies

- **There is the hope that some Welcoming Liturgies can be held for Kinder and Yr 7 during Term One.** At this point, we will wait until we receive additional advice on whether these will occur as planned. If they are allowed to proceed, these liturgies will be held during School hours and at this stage no parents will be allowed to attend. The usual Parish Welcome Mass & BBQ unfortunately cannot be held this year. The gifts for Kindies and Yr 7 students will still occur but during school time.
- **The Senior Students Mass & Luncheon is still on Monday 8 February.** The details will not be known until the end of Week One as the venue's capacity may change over the next week or so. Details will be conveyed to senior students as we are given updates by the NSW Govt and the Wyong Leagues Club.
- **Ash Wednesday Liturgies will be arranged differently for Primary and Secondary on 17 February.** Details will be passed on as we are given updates from authorities

## School Excursions, Sport and Camps

- **This was an area greatly affected last year. It is our hope that many Carnivals, Sporting Opportunities, excursions and Camps can return to the Calendar this year.** At this stage the Secondary Swimming Carnival will be held at Wyong Swimming Pool on Friday 26 February. The Secondary Athletics Carnival is scheduled to be held at Mingarra on Friday 12 March. We are hopeful that both Carnivals can proceed but, unfortunately, parents are not permitted to attend these carnivals.
- **The Yr 7 Excursion to Kincumber will be held on Tuesday 23 February.** This excursion is an important orientation to life at the College and at this stage will proceed as scheduled.
- **Any travel to Sporting events or for Secondary Thursday Sports Activities will require the students wearing face masks.** Whilst this sounds like it is unnecessary because they are travelling as a group, (there is more than one cohort travelling together) it remains the safety protocol for all public transport.

This overview is to align the College community to the safety protocols as indicated by NSW Health and the State Government. We thank our community in anticipation for your ongoing support and goodwill.

Kind regards,



College Principal

## COVID 19 SYMPTOM GUIDELINES

