

Dear Parents and Mazenod Families,

I write to share further information with you regarding Year 7 to 10. Thank you for your support and attention to the boys' learning over recent weeks. Our whole College staff greatly appreciate the wonderful partnership we have between school and home.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Like you, I have been monitoring the information regarding COVID-19 from government and the AHPPC. The College has worked within the Catholic Education Western Australia system's guidelines to support all student learning and pastoral care, and in line with the National Principles for School Education. Our three statements have guided our decision-making:

1. The health and safety of our community, students and staff, remain our first priority.
2. All students will continue to be provided with a quality Catholic education in the Oblate tradition.
3. Decisions regarding school education will continue to be informed by national and state-based health and education advice, and align with the National Principles for School Education.

This week, we placed students back in their classes with their normal subject teacher who taught all boys remotely. As a College, we have conducted our review against the backdrop of relevant advice, the return of students to campus, our Education Continuity Plan and the health of students and staff on campus. Yesterday, Tom Floyd (Head of Boarding) and I communicated re-opening information for our boarding community. Our senior boarders, their siblings and siblings of boarders in other schools have begun returning. The Year 7 to 10 boarders will start to return next Tuesday evening and the details of their arrangements will be communicated in a separate letter. The ability for our boarders to access face-to-face learning was an important factor in our review.

RETURN DATE FOR YEAR 7 - 10

All classes in Years 7-10 will be able to **resume face-to-face learning onsite this Tuesday 12 May**. This will mean Year 7 to 12 will all be face-to-face learning. We anticipate parents will move their boys back to school as soon as they possibly can, but we understand there will be unforeseen situations, and I am sure we will overcome any challenges that come our way as a community through patience and understanding. Parents have the choice as to whether their sons return. The following groups of students will continue to be supported online:

- Vulnerable students who need to remain at home based on the advice forthcoming from the government and AHPPC.
- Students whose parents choose to keep them at home.
- Medically compromised students are asked to remain at home until they receive a medical clearance to attend school.

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- I request parents continue to keep their sons at home should they be ill or display signs of cold or flu, taking the appropriate action as guided by medical authorities. Parents will be contacted should their sons display symptoms of cold or flu at school and the request will be made to collect them.

Students not Returning

Should your decision be to not return your son to class on Tuesday 12 May, I ask that you contact the College on 9291-1500 or email bishop.janine@mazenod.wa.edu.au by Monday 11 May. Our Dean of Students, Michael Anderson, will organise a follow-up communication with you.

CARE ON CAMPUS

- To assist with maintaining the health of all students and staff, the position of parents and caregivers not entering the College campus property other than to drop off or pick up their children, will remain. Arrangements for students arriving late or leaving early should be made by contacting the Student Reception ahead of time and our staff will be happy to assist. This will be reviewed in line with national and state-based health and education advice.
- The Canteen will operate as online lunch orders and staggered recess lunchtimes. Over-the-counter sales will be available at recess. The communal water fountains will not be operating so students are advised to bring a full water bottle to school during these weeks.
- The College will continue to ensure that environmental cleaning practices are in place, with enhanced routines where necessary.
- Students will be required to continue with the hygiene practices put in place in Term One.
- Movement around student lockers will be managed to reduce large gatherings.

UNIFORM SHOP

The College Uniform Shop will be available for transactions. Physical distancing practices will be in place for adults. Appointments only for parents after hours will be available as there will be **no drop-in arrangements during the day or after school**. Please contact the Uniform Shop to make an appointment or seek assistance.

STUDENT CARE and STUDENT UNIFORM

It is really important that we carefully transition our boys back to school. The Pastoral and Academic leadership teams are working diligently to assure all your sons that help and support is at hand and we are conscious that some boys are returning a little anxious and will require some further care. I have requested all staff to be as pragmatic as possible as the boys return. Issues such as hair are being treated 'softly' since social distancing requirements may have seen boys struggle to access a hairdresser. Right now, their safe return and positive transition back to on-site learning is the priority, but we are aiming to return to 'normal' by mid-term, at the latest. To assist families, students will be permitted to wear their sports uniform on the day that they have a timetabled physical education or practical outdoor education class. Otherwise, students are in normal winter uniform. After the mid-term break, this will be reviewed based on available health and education advice. The Uniform Shop can advise on the arrival of ordered blazers.

EDUCATION CONTINUITY PLAN

Bruce Derby and Michael Anderson will communicate to parents regarding any updates to the plans for education and pastoral care. Further logistics and operational information will be emailed to you by the College Leadership Team (Jeff Ronan, Bruce Derby and Michael Anderson) if required.

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INTERIM REPORTS

In order to avoid too many communications arriving in your inbox, I wish to inform you that the Interim Report will be released on Tuesday morning. It is very important to understand that this report is indicative and should be read against the backdrop of the changes in learning context towards the end of term and the start of this term.

I am very proud of the work of our teachers and students, they have adapted and worked so hard to do their personal best during these past weeks. We are in a good position should the need to make any further changes arise in the future. Thank you for the support over the past several weeks. Our College community is blessed to have you as our parents and families. It is only through your goodwill and feedback that we have been able to chart a way through the past weeks. Please feel free to contact me or members of the College Leadership Team should you have any queries. I will keep you updated with any new information as it becomes available.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Watson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew Watson
Principal

7 May 2020