



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I have been writing to you on a regular basis to keep you informed of the College's approach to maintain the health, wellbeing and learning in response to COVID-19. This is the latest update:

➤ **Hygiene and Health Measures**

There is a healthy environment at school. We have further increased our cleaning regime in school and boarding. Extra hand sanitising units were added at the end of last week to further parts of the campus and the students have responded very well to hand hygiene protocols in using these facilities and washing hands regularly.

➤ **Absence from School**

Students who are presenting with coughs and feeling unwell, which is a normal part of everyday life at school, are being assessed as they come to our Student Reception. In the event that we communicate with you to arrange for them to go home, it is greatly appreciated that you are able to pick them up in a timely fashion. As per normal practice, students who are away from school can access missed work through their OneNote Class. Thank you for keeping your boys at home if they are displaying cold and flu-like symptoms. This is most important.

➤ **Staggered Recess and Lunch**

Years 7, 9 and 11 are being released for recess 5 minutes ahead of the bell. Years 8, 10 and 12 are released 5 minutes early for lunch. These practices keep the lines for Canteen at a very low number and our staff are observing the boys keeping good distances at breaks. Larger gatherings have already been cancelled but we are working with our pro-active student leaders to provide fun and creative ways to compensate for these cancellations or postponements.

➤ **Co-curricular Activities**

These opportunities have been scaled down, altered or postponed assisting with maintaining a healthy environment. As you would be aware, most sporting organisations have announced postponements or suspension of their seasons.

➤ **Physical Education Lessons - Uniform**

As of tomorrow (Thursday, 19 March), students who have Physical Education lessons timetabled for the day will be allowed to come and leave school in their Physical Education uniform. This measure assists with taking the pressure off available changerooms that we would normally use for Physical Education. I ask that you support the decision by stressing with your sons that they can only take this measure when the day's timetable has a scheduled P.E lesson.

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➤ **Online Learning Resources**

We continue to provide our full academic program and you will know through my recent letter to parents and the Newsletter, that we are preparing online learning resources **should the school be instructed to close by the proper authorities**. It has been a fantastic team effort by our teachers and support staff and I would like to recognise them for the work they are doing on top of their normal preparation, lesson delivery, assessment feedback, tutorials and duties. These resources will only become available should the school shut down and will be explained for parents and students. Absence from school in the meantime can be covered by the students checking their class OneNote for posted work. Contact can be made with your son's Head of Year should he have issues with accessing this posted work.

➤ **Overseas Travel**

Please ensure you adhere to the government directions regarding self-isolation to individuals returning from overseas. This applies to students who attend the College and may be in contact with that returning traveller. Please contact the College if you wish to clarify this point further. Government restrictions are now in place to limit any overseas travel for the coming holiday period.

➤ **Care for the Community**

In the Newsletter last week, I asked families to consider support for St Patrick's Community Care Centre. Thank you to the families who responded with fresh fruit and canned goods. Mr Damian Wallis is co-ordinating donations and working with the student leaders to distribute them, so there continues to be an opportunity to give. Mr Wallis will also be working on the collection of items families might wish to donate that can be distributed through Vinnies and the local churches in the Hills area. I know we are all considering our care for the most vulnerable at this time and the charism of St Eugene and the Oblates is drawing us to be people for others.

Thank you for your ongoing and committed support. It is greatly appreciated in these times.

Yours sincerely



**Andrew Watson**  
**Principal**

18 March 2020