



Thursday, January 27, 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers

WELCOME BACK FOR 2022

We hope that you and your family have stayed well and safe during the Christmas/New Year period. The unfolding COVID-19 situation has certainly provided challenges for many MacKillop families during this period. We continue to pray for all those who have been affected directly and indirectly and for all who are working hard in our community to improve the health outcomes of all.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming back all students, from Years 7 through to Year 10 on **Thursday, February 3**. Our College Reception is open from 8.00a.m. until 4.00p.m. to support families with any enquiries or needs you may have prior to our starting date. **Please note that we will be closing the College Reception briefly on Monday, January 31 between 8.00a.m. and 1.15p.m. for all staff professional learning.**

COVID-19 UPDATE

Vaccination

Public Health recommends vaccination as a measure to reduce risk of severe COVID-19 illness. Whilst COVID-19 vaccination is highly recommended, Catholic Education Tasmania will not treat students differently based on their COVID-19 vaccination status.

Catholic Education Tasmania recommends that all staff achieve and maintain full COVID-19 vaccination status. We can confirm that we have a very high rate of fully vaccinated staff at the College and are encouraging fully vaccinated staff to get their booster vaccinations according to the recommended schedule.

Wearing a Mask

Mask wearing supports the capacity of the College to provide continued learning. All staff, visitors and contractors are required to wear masks whilst indoors on our premises.

Students are required to wear masks when indoors except when engaged in activities that require clear communication or vigorous exercise.

Please view the section below (and also attached) in relation to mask wearing and bus transportation for specific information about student travel to and from the College.

Student Attendance

Your child is an important part of our College community and is expected to attend school.

If your child has a medical condition that limits them attending school, the College will support you to ensure that you have the appropriate support to meet your child's educational needs considering the advice that has been provided.



If you choose to keep your child at home without an underlying medical or educational reason they will be marked as absent.

Symptom Management

Students should not attend the College if they are displaying cold or flu-like symptoms or if they have been directed to isolate by Public Health. They must stay home and their parent/caregiver contact either their child's GP or Public Health (1800 671 738).

If a student displays cold or flu-like symptoms at the College their parent/caregiver will be contacted so that they can be collected as soon as possible. If your child has hay fever, we advise parents/caregivers to obtain a medical certificate from your child's GP to confirm this health condition. This would avoid the scenario of being called by the College to collect your child when this may not be warranted.

Rapid Antigen Testing

Rapid antigen testing is a key component of Public Health's approach to self-diagnosis of infection and close contact management. Catholic Education Tasmania has secured two rapid antigen test kits for each of our staff and students. It is anticipated that these kits will be in the College close to the commencement of Term 1.

In Tasmania, rapid antigen tests are not required for screening purposes in schools. They are only to be used if a student or staff member is symptomatic or for testing to rule out transmission where a confirmed case (s) has been present at the College.

DAY 1 – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3

INFORMATION FOR YEAR 7 FAMILIES AND NEW STUDENTS ONLY

We ask that **all Year 7 students and all other new students starting in Years 8, 9 or 10** gather at the Sails/Basketball Courts area by 8.30a.m. There will be staff available at the College entrances to guide new students to this area. Our new students will be welcomed, then guided into small, house-based groups. Our House Leaders and Year 10 House Captains will then escort all new students to their Pastoral Care Groups.

INFORMATION FOR CURRENT YEAR 8-10 FAMILIES AND STUDENTS

We ask that all Year 8, 9 and 10 students who have access to their laptops check SEQTA Learn after 3.00p.m. on Tuesday, February 1. This will allow students to view their personal timetable and identify their Pastoral Care Group and classroom.

When Music to Move starts, we ask that students move to their Pastoral Care classrooms as per student timetables. If any current Year 8, 9 or 10 student is unable to access or interpret SEQTA Learn, for whatever reason, we ask them to simply remain at the Sails/Basketball Courts area at 8.30a.m. A staff member will be on hand to direct them to wherever they need to be.

**The allocation of students into Pastoral Care Groups, core classes and elective classes is developed over many months with relevant staff, always with the pastoral and learning needs of students at the centre of decision making. We ask that families refrain from contacting the College with requests to move Pastoral Care Groups, classes or electives. If issues of concern remain after the conclusion of Week 2, families may make contact with their child/children's Pastoral Care Teacher or with the Director of Pastoral Care, Mr Aaron Davey.*

INFORMATION FOR ALL FAMILIES AND STUDENTS

Bus Transportation

All Redline Coaches, Coal River Coaches, Tassielink Coaches and Metro Tasmania bus services will commence on Thursday, February 3. Families are reminded that the full student bus fare has increased by 10 cents from January 1, 2022. If your child/children uses cash for a single trip ticket, the new fare will be \$1.90. If your child/children use a smartcard or purchases a 10-trip ticket, the new fare will be \$1.52. For more information visit www.transport.tas.gov.au/student or call 6166 3343 (9:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. weekdays).

We draw your attention to the attached communication from Elise Archer, Acting Minister of Infrastructure and Transport. We ask that families discuss this communication with your child/children to ensure they understand what to do and how to behave when catching buses this year. The main points to remember are that it is a requirement for children aged 12 years and older to wear a mask in all public indoor spaces - this includes buses, taxis and ride-share services. While bus drivers are not responsible for 'policing' mask wearing or providing masks, it is an expectation that students will do the right thing to keep themselves and our community safe by wearing a mask.

What to Bring on Day 1

All students should bring their own sunscreen, a water bottle; a labelled book for each subject (it is not necessary to bring every book on the booklist); a pencil case (label this and any other stationery and uniform items); and a College hat or cap. Returning students should bring their laptop (charged). Students may bring their own recess and lunch on this first day.

The College Canteen will re-open from Day 1. Families are encouraged to check the College website or the attached Families Guide for information on how to set up online ordering from the Canteen.

Day 1 Program - Thursday, February 3

For the majority of Day 1 (Periods 1 to 4) students will be with their Pastoral Care Groups, getting to know one another and their Pastoral Care Teachers. After lunch, Years 8, 9 and 10 will attend timetabled classes and begin their normal academic program (i.e. Thursday Week B - Period 5 and 6). Year 7s will spend the remainder of their day involved in additional orientation activities.



Day 2 for all students will be as timetabled (i.e. Friday Week B - Periods 1-6)

Uniform

In our letter to families (dated Thursday, January 20), we outlined the supply issues that our uniform supplier, Perm-A-Pleat, has been experiencing for some months now. We remind families that if they have been unable to secure uniform items from the Uniform Shop, that they provide detail about any uniform items they have been unable to source to your child/children's Pastoral Care Teacher. Student Planners will be provided to students in the first few days of school - prior to then, a handwritten note to your child/children's Pastoral Care Teacher will certainly suffice. Families who have been unable to source College blazers (this has affected a small number of mainly Year 7 families) are asked to send their child/children in the College jumper or College soft-shell jacket until such time as their College blazer arrives.

College Expectations

We have attached with this communication a new publication: Families Guide 2022. This document details our expectations including those in relation to student presentation and uniform (Student Code of Personal Appearance) and our Mobile Phone Protocol. We ask families to take note of College expectations in relation to hair, make-up, jewellery and non-MacKillop issued uniform items. All students are expected to wear formal uniform each day at the College, except those days when they are involved in HaPE practical classes, Dance, or as otherwise directed by the College. A reminder that all students should wear traditional black leather shoes (no ballet, buckle or skate shoes) with their formal uniform, in accordance with the Student Code of Personal Appearance.

All students are expected to be sun aware. Personal sunscreen should be applied daily and carried for personal use during the day. Extra sunscreen lotion is also available from House Leader offices and at College Reception.

The Families Guide also provides new guidelines for families and students in relation to student absences. We ask that all families familiarise themselves with this document as these guidelines may represent a change from what families and students have been used to.

Parent/Caregiver Communication with the College

One of our exciting changes for 2022 has been the move to a vertical pastoral care structure. This means that your child/children has been placed in Pastoral Care Groups (previously morning Tutor Groups) with students from their own and other year groups, from Years 7-10. Their Pastoral Care Teacher will remain with your child/children as they move through the six-year journey at the College, enabling the strongest of relationships to be established and grow between the student, their Pastoral Care Teacher and your family.

Your child/children's Pastoral Care Teacher should be the first point of contact for any matters pertaining to your child/children (i.e. administrative, uniform, concerns in relation to learning, wellbeing and so on). The exception to this would be if the family is already dealing with another member of staff (i.e. a Subject Teacher or a House Leader [previously Year Level Co-ordinator]) in relation to a specific matter. We ask that families make contact by phone or via email with their child/children's Pastoral Care Teacher in the first

instance. Pastoral Care Teachers will endeavour to return parent/caregiver's phone calls or emails within the next day or so. For urgent matters, please contact your child/children's House Leader. If parents/caregivers wish to make contact with a Pastoral Care Teacher or other staff member, we ask that they do so by phoning College Reception on 6245 0099 between 8.00a.m. and 4.00p.m. or by emailing relevant staff members directly.

Drop Off and Pick Up

We ask that our parents/caregivers minimise, or ideally avoid, entering the College premises. This extends to parents/caregivers who might otherwise have liked to accompany their child/children onto the school premises and wait with them prior to school starting on Day 1. Minimising visitations will enable the College to operate in a way that maximises the safety of all. Those parents/caregivers who need to visit the College Reception for short periods may of course do so. In accordance with Public Health regulations, all visitors must use our site-specific QR code in-conjunction with the Check In Tas app.

Staffing News

It is my pleasure to update families on changes to staffing for 2022. Starting in new roles, continuing their association with us or commencing new roles are:

- **Martin Bower** – Mathematics and Pastoral Care Teacher
- **Kylie-Jane Chapple** – Teacher Assistant (Food Technology/VET Hospitality)
- **Liam Cooke** – Science and Pastoral Care Teacher
- **Jennifer Crowden** - Director of Senior School; Mathematics Teacher
- **Nathan Duggan** - Health and Physical Education, Religious Education and Pastoral Care Teacher
- **Mikaela Ewington** - English, Religious Education, Drama Teacher and Pastoral Care Teacher
- **Lily Jeffries** – English, Humanities & Social Sciences and Pastoral Care Teacher
- **Chris Littlejohn** – Digital Technologies, Science, Religious Education and Pastoral Care Teacher
- **Anne Morling** – Teacher Assistant (Food Technology/VET Hospitality)
- **Cameron Quinn** – English, Humanities & Social Sciences and Pastoral Care Teacher
- **Zoe Quinn** – Japanese, Humanities & Social Sciences and Pastoral Care Teacher
- **Daniel Schneider** – Design & Technologies and Pastoral Care Teacher
- **Stevi Smith** – Teacher Assistant (Learning Enhancement)
- **Monica Talbot** – Administration Officer – Daily Organisation
- **Sally Tew** – The Arts Teacher.

The following staff have been appointed to trainee positions for 2022:

- **Thomas Fewkes** - Physical Education and Outdoor Education Trainee
- **James Sullivan** - ICT Help Desk Trainee
- **Emily Mayne** - Learning Enhancement Administration Trainee
- **Daniel White** - Music and Performing Arts Trainee
- **Zac Doran** - Sport Administration Trainee
- **Charlotte Davies** - Youth Minister Trainee.

A number of staff are, or will be, returning from leave in 2022:

- **Jacinta Pearce** - Humanities & Social Sciences Teacher
- **Rachel Hutchins** - returning late Term 2 from maternity leave. **Holly van Lierop** will be taking Rachel's Health and Physical Education classes until her return.
- **Jessica Hillier** - returning for the commencement of Term 2 from maternity leave. **Tim Duffy** will be taking Jess' Music and Pastoral Care classes until her return.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR FAMILY CALENDARS

Year 9 Rite Journey Presentation

A presentation in relation to the year-long Year 9 Rite Journey program will be made available to all Year 9 students and their parents/caregivers via our Director of Pastoral Care, Mr Aaron Davey from **Monday, February 7**.

Meet and Greet Evening

A Meet and Greet Evening is being planned so that our parents/caregivers can meet and engage with their child/children's Pastoral Care Teacher. This event has been tentatively planned for **Monday, February 7**. More details will be made available to families in coming days.

College Swimming Carnival

The College Swimming Carnival is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 22**. Our tentative plan is to involve all Year 7 students and all Year 8, 9 and 10 swimmers in this event. More information will be made available to families in coming weeks.



College Photo Day

The College Photo Day is scheduled for **Thursday, February 24**. More information about this event will be made available to parents/caregivers in the coming weeks. We ask that after receiving photograph order forms, that parents/caregivers return them to the College as soon as possible.

Year 10 Welcome to Senior School Dinner

The Year 10 Welcome to Senior School Dinner is being planned for **Tuesday, March 8**. Further details on this event will be provided to our Year 10 students, parents/caregivers via Ms Jennifer Crowden, Director of Senior School, in coming weeks.

Year 7 Camps

Year 7 Camps are planned for the **week beginning Tuesday, March 15**. Further details about Year 7 Camps will be provided to our Year 7 students, parents/caregivers via Mr Andrew Pritchard, Director of Junior School, in coming weeks.

Please contact Deputy Principal, Ms Donna Brown (dbrown@mackillop.tas.edu.au) for further information in relation to the contents of this communication.

I thank you in advance for your support and we look forward to working with you in 2022.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Hill'.

Stephen Hill
COLLEGE PRINCIPAL