

Thursday, February 13, 2022

In preparation for the commencement of school in 2022

To the families of MacKillop Catholic College

I am sure that most families are paying close attention to the daily reporting of the current circumstances surrounding and related to COVID-19. The opening of Tasmania's borders, the daily announcements of the State's COVID-19 case numbers, vaccinations, boosters, face masks, PCR and rapid antigen testing, all seem to have become part of our daily conversations.

As you prepare for the return of your child/children to school on February 3, I have no doubt that you are also seeking further details as to the policies and procedures that MacKillop Catholic College will have in place to ensure that the health and wellbeing of all in our community remains our highest priority.

The College has, and will continue to, work closely with Catholic Education Tasmania (CET) to ensure that we adhere to all published Public Health advice and directives. Along with all other schools, we are currently awaiting the publication of National Cabinet's *Return to School Framework*. The aim of the Framework is to develop processes and procedures that will "enable students to return to school on day one of term one, and for schools to stay open with consistent requirements across all jurisdictions to be in place prior to the first day of the first term of school."

Catholic Education Tasmania is working closely with the State Government and other education sectors in Tasmania on a range of COVID-19 related measures including vaccination, room ventilation, personal protective equipment, cleaning and Rapid Antigen Testing and have advised us that that they should be in a position to provide more definitive information in the coming days. We will update you as soon as possible after these measures have been finalised to ensure that you are fully informed prior to the commencement of Term One 2022.

In closing, I offer the following prayer for those in our community who have been or are being directly affected by the impacts of COVID-19 in more significant and lasting ways.

A Prayer for Challenging Times

Gracious God,

We give thanks anew for your providence and presence.

We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and overseas.

We pray for those in need of healing.

We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving.

We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain all those who are serving in response.

We pray for your Holy Spirit's discernment amidst the many choices and decisions facing our national, community and medical leaders.

We pray we each might see quickly what more we can do to help those who are vulnerable.

This prayer for our nation in the family of nations, with all that is on our hearts, we gather now and pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

National Council of Churches

Please enjoy the remainder of the break knowing that we are actively preparing for the safe return of students and staff for the 2022 school year.



Stephen Hill
PRINCIPAL