



30 April 2020

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Friends of Our Marymede Community,

Last Saturday, 25 April, we reflected as a nation on the significance of ANZAC Day. I hope our students were able to find time to think about the contribution of all the Australian Service men and women who have served our country in times of war and for the many who have given their lives. It is not pure chance but 'sacrifices' which have made us the fortunate country we are today.

*"They shall not grow old
As we that are left to grow old.
Time shall not weary them
Nor the years condemn.*

*At the going down of the sun
And in the morning,
We will remember them.
We will remember them."*

COVID-19 Update

We are now almost three weeks into Term 2, and I hope our students (and parents) have now settled into the Home Learning Program. We are very aware that it is a challenging time for everyone and that many of our students are missing their school friends and, I dare say, their teachers. I can assure parents that our staff are fully committed to delivering an engaging online learning program for their students and are happy to respond to emails from both students and parents who have concerns.

The strengths of our community have been ever-present during this time. I am heartened by the emails from parents and students sharing their appreciation for the work of our staff and the delight in learning to do new things. I am also heartened by the opportunities to share a laugh. As we look for silver linings, I believe one will be a much stronger Marymede Community.

Premier Daniel Andrews has announced that on Monday 11 May he will be releasing a statement in relation to the social distancing regulations moving forward. We hope and pray that at some stage later this term the Government will declare that it is safe for our students to return to school.

Term 2 practical classes

Next week a small number of Senior Secondary classes, which have a significant practical component as part of their course of study will be at school working with their teacher for blocks of time. The College will be following the social distancing requirements and class sizes will be a maximum of 10 students. Parents, please note that these classes are not compulsory.

Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews

Most parents would be aware that because of the State Government's decision to close schools in the last week of Term 1, we were unable to hold out Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews.

I believe it is very important that these interviews take place this term to give our parents the opportunity to discuss with subject teachers how their son/daughter is progressing.

Parents would have received an email from our Deputy Principal Learning & Teaching P-12, Mrs Jessica Hall, earlier in the week providing details about how the online P/T/S/ Interviews will take place.

I strongly encourage parents who have not made a booking with their child's teacher(s) yet to do so in the next few days. Bookings are to be made via PAM. The interviews have been set for Thursday 7 May from 2.30pm-7.00pm and Monday 11 May from 9.00am-5.00pm.

Prep Enrolments 2021

A reminder to our parents that Prep enrolments for next year close on Friday May 22.

We anticipate strong demand for places given the number of 4 year old children in the Marymede Early Learning Centre at present.

Mother's Day

I wish all our Mothers a very happy Mother's Day on Sunday week (10 May).

I hope you are able to enjoy coming together with your immediate family members and to connect 'virtually' with those who cannot be with you in person.

Mr. Michael Kenny
Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL STAFF AND OPERATIONS PREP – YEAR 12

Home Learning Program: Congratulations to the Home and 'Away' Teams

As we conclude our third week of the Home Learning Program, we congratulate all our learners for the ways they have engaged in this new learning environment. I have had the pleasure of interacting with my Year 11 Religion & Society class: it's certainly not the same as the lively in-class discussions, but the use of Chat, Zoom, SIMON, OneNote and more have multiplied the different ways we can explore our learning together.

I have also been welcomed by the small number of on-campus learners (technically the 'away' team in our current situation) who have had to adjust to very different classrooms: socially distanced, multi-aged, led by adults who aren't their teachers, and engaging with their classmates via their laptops or iPads. Our Preps have proudly showed me how they can navigate Seesaw on their own, while others have delighted in showing me new dance moves during their 'Brain break' times. The adaptability and perseverance of our Marymede students – from the youngest to the most experienced – is to be commended!



Limited Access to Student Resources On-campus

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, students and parents have limited access to tubs / lockers if a student requires additional learning resources that are at school.

Secondary students may gain access to their lock during the normal periods 1, 4 & 5 times by visiting main reception. Only the student will be permitted on-campus. In keeping with social distancing requirements, only one set of siblings or two students will be permitted at a time. Please note that students may be required to wait outside reception until a previous set of students has exited.

Primary parents will generally be unable to access their child's tub / locker unless your child's teacher has specifically requested retrieval of resources. In this case, the staff member will negotiate personally meeting the individual parent outside the Finance office and escorting them to the classroom/locker. If there is a need across a year level to have parents retrieve resources, then parents will be contacted to book a time to either collect resources from Main Reception or for teachers meet parents outside the Finance office to escort them into the class/locker bay in groups of no more than 2 parents at a time.

'If You Can Learn From Home, You MUST Learn From Home'

At the time of writing, under the Victorian State Government's announcement of the Remote Schooling program, the only students on campus for the remainder of Term 2 should be young children (mostly Primary school aged) who cannot care for themselves and who do not have an adult in the house to supervise them. We do not expect students from Year 9 and above to be on-campus except in truly exceptional circumstances that prevent them from engaging in their Home Learning Program at their own house.

As required via government instruction, parents with students on-campus (or requesting to send their child) are required by Friday of each week to fill in a form with the following details prior to their child be permitted on-campus to be supervised the following week:

- Verify that your child is in perfect health
- Explain which category of essential worker or vulnerable situation prevents your child from engaging in their Home Learning Program at home
- Verify that no-one in your residence has had close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days
- Verify that no-one in your residence has been in self-isolation in the past 14 days (*i.e. beyond the 'social distancing' requirements*)

If you have not already received a copy of the survey and meet the conditions for your child conducting their Home Learning on-campus, please email absentees@marymede.vic.edu.au to request the link to the 'On-campus attendance form'. Students whose parents fail to fill in the survey will not be accepted on-campus.

Please note that most of the adults engaged in supervision on-campus are not teachers: most of the teachers are off-campus and are actively engaged in conducting and preparing Home Learning programs. Students will not be supervised by their own teachers and no active teaching nor assistance is provided on-campus except in some exceptional cases for a small number of students who are already on a Personalised Learning Program. Students on-campus will be engaged in the exact same Home Learning Program as students learning from home.

Restricted Entry & Procedures for Students On-campus

Parents and community members are reminded that entry and exit points to the campus continue to be limited as a further measure for protecting the health of our staff and students. Parents will not be permitted to drive in through the usual Gate E or F entrances.

Secondary students must be dropped off outside the College grounds and enter via the pedestrian gate near the Chapel. Primary school parents may park in the Primary carpark and must accompany their child into the College to sign them in each day. During morning arrival and afternoon pick-up, only the following gates will be open:

- **Gate D** – pedestrian access only (near the Chapel)
- **Gate C** – pedestrian access only
- **Gate B** – primary school car-parking only. Pedestrian access for Primary students and parental sign-in is via the gate near the Finance Office.

For the small number of students who will be on-campus, all Primary school parents must personally sign-in their children at the front of House 1 (through the gate near the Finance Office) each day. Secondary students are also to report for sign-in outside House 1 upon arrival each day.

David Broadbent
Deputy Principal Staff & Operations P-12

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL LEARNING AND TEACHING PREP – YEAR 12

Home Learning Program

The strength of the Marymede community really has been on show during the transition to our Home Learning Program. I have very much enjoyed having a look on Seesaw each day for the myriad of student uploads of the fantastic work that Primary students have been doing at home. The resilience and commitment shown to continue learning under very different circumstances is a testament to the strength of the school-parent partnerships established here at Marymede.

I know our students from years 7-12 are working exceptionally hard, too, engaging in learning in multiple ways and continuing to seek to find balance. The results of a student survey about Home Learning were very complimentary of the approach of teaching staff to home learning and the platforms used to enable engagement in direct teacher instruction. Based on student feedback we are continuing to refine the amount of

work set, recognising that it is likely that learning tasks are going to take students longer to complete at home. We will also be ensuring that students have the opportunity to get up, stretch or move about in between each period and take a break from the screen, even briefly. Lessons will be commencing 5 minutes into the period to facilitate this break. The HPE Team, too, are posting a 'Workout of the Day' in the SIMON Daily Notices that students and their families can get involved in as well, which can help keep us all moving during this time.

We are acutely aware of the struggle that some students are having in adapting to this new learning environment. If your child is feeling overwhelmed during Home Learning please contact their Classroom teacher (Primary) or Tutor Teacher (Secondary) so we can look to offer some further support.

VCE/VCAL

VCAA are continuing to review current VCE and VCAL provisions and are due to update schools this week on any changes to Unit 4. The Unit 3 content and school-based assessments will not alter; however, the method of assessment may change given the Home Learning Program. As soon as we have confirmed information around any changes this will be disseminated to both students and parents. In the meantime, teachers are working to support students in their learning so that each Marymede student can continue to strive to exceed their potential in their studies this year. The Unit 3 trial examinations, which provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate their understanding of the content and skills from first semester, will be rescheduled to occur in Term 3.

Parent Teacher Student Interviews

This term, more than ever, we acknowledge that we are teaching students in partnership with you, their caregivers, and therefore it is important for parents and students to receive feedback in order to improve student learning outcomes. The interviews are an important opportunity for parents, students and teachers to celebrate the work your child has already completed and discuss the best ways that we can support your child as they move forward in their learning. As Principal Mr Michael Kenny mentioned, these will be occurring via phone and further information about the booking process has been emailed. A reminder that bookings open from 12pm today (Thursday 30 April).

Mrs Jessica Hall
Deputy Principal Learning & Teaching P-12

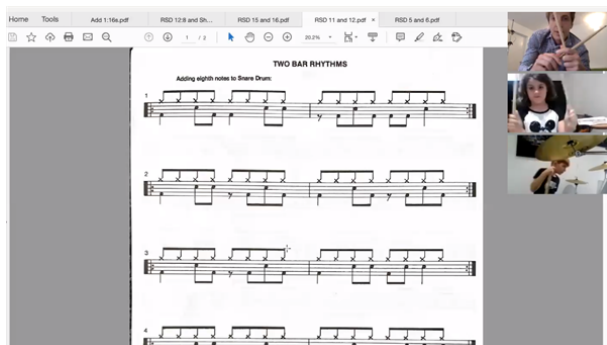
STUDENT LIFE

Music Program Makes the Move Online

The second week of this term saw our vibrant Instrumental Music program successfully move onto the online learning platform. With so many musicians and artists still performing together online from home in some truly amazing and inspiring clips that circulated the internet over the holidays, we were excited that we would still be able to offer our music students lessons from home with their teacher via Zoom.

We are thrilled with the extremely high number of students and their parents who are keen to continue their music education

on the online platform and all the positive feedback we've received after the first week of online lessons. None of these online music lessons would be possible without the support of our professional, hardworking, dedicated and strong team of Instrumental Music teachers. They are the heart and soul of our program and the Performing Arts team thanks them for their flexibility and tireless efforts in helping to get the online program up and running so quickly.



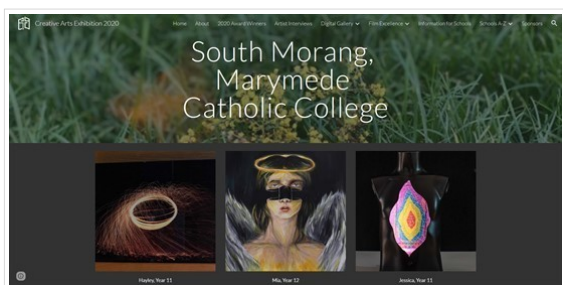
We are privileged to have them and their skills in our wonderful team. We would also like to thank the Instrumental Music students and their parents for their continued support of Music at Marymede.

Ms Ellen Lane
Performing Arts and Co-Curricular Assistant

The 2020 CEM Creative Arts Exhibition is Now Live

The CEM Creative Arts Exhibition has moved online to a digital space this year. Congratulations to Mia Markowicz, Jessica Turner, Hayley Smyth, Stephanie Ceola and Lauren Chan, who are all currently exhibiting their Studio Arts or Media work in the digital exhibition. You can view their work by visiting the link below. You can also vote for their unique and eye-catching creations in the People's Choice Award: voting closes on May 1.

<https://sites.google.com/cem.edu.au/creativeartsexhibition2020/>



Mr Jeremy Guzman
Head of Visual Arts P-12

Co-Curriculum @ Home!

Last term, we announced the exciting 2020 P-12 co-curricular program. While school may look different right now, there are still many ways that your child can pursue different interests and earn House Points. Every Monday, we will publish the "Co-Curriculum @ Home" program which contains a variety of new activities. If you haven't had the opportunity to look over this week's program, you can find it attached. We hope your child enjoys this opportunity to try something new, upskill or enjoy a brain break.

Ms Angie Bedford
Cultural Co-Curricular Coordinator P-12

COMMUNITY MASS

