



9 September 2021

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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

I have said many times over the past 18 months that we are living in uncertain times. We are now focussing on the number of Victorians who have received their COVID vaccination and hoping that we reach the 70% number soon which may allow some of the current restrictions to be relaxed. We pray that the Government will allow students to return on campus to start Term 4.

I take this opportunity to thank our parents and staff for the way have managed their work commitments as well as looking after elderly relatives and supporting their children in home learning. I am proud of the way the vast majority of our students have retaken to home schooling and ask them to keep persevering as there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Senior Students Priority Access to the COVID Vaccination

Our parents would now be aware that the Government have given our Year 12 students and Year 11 students studying a Unit 3/4 subject priority access to the COVID vaccination from 7-17 September (see the next section for details). The Government is strongly encouraging students to receive the vaccination to help ensure that they finish the school year and are able to complete their final examinations. Ultimately this is family decision as to whether parents take up this opportunity.

Year 7 Enrolments 2023

Staff have very much enjoyed chatting to both current and prospective families who are looking to enrol their child at Year 7 in 2023. I have been delighted with the demand for places which confirms to me that the College has a strong reputation out in the wider community.

Prep - Year 10 Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews

Our P/T/S Interviews will take place next Tuesday 14 September from 4.00pm-7.00pm and Thursday 16 September 2.00pm-7.00pm. I strongly encourage parents to book a time with your child's teachers.

2022 Re Enrolment Form

I ask that parents please return the online 2022 Re-Enrolment form as soon as possible please. Parents who have made the decision for their child not to return to Marymede are asked to please inform the College as a matter of high priority as this impacts on our staffing for next year and there are waiting lists at many year levels. I thank parents for your support of our re-enrolment process.

Senior Student Leadership

This week our Year 11 students have been involved in online presentations to both staff and students in their House. I enjoy listening to their ideas on how they can continue to improve the culture at our College. I thank all students who have put themselves forward to take on a leadership role.

I have always stressed to our senior students that you do not have to wear a badge or have a title to be a leader at Marymede Catholic College. Our students will look to all our Year 12 students for guidance and support in the coming year.

We hope to be in a position to finalise the 2022 Student Leadership Team by the end of next week.

School Holidays

Classes conclude next Thursday 16 September at 1.00pm. We have planned a Staff Professional Day on Friday 17 September.

I wish all staff and students a relaxing and safe upcoming holiday break.

Mr. Michael Kenny
Principal

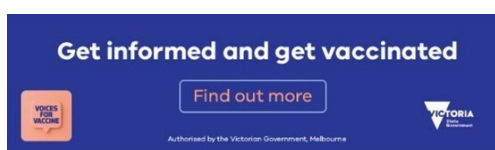
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL STAFF AND OPERATIONS PREP – YEAR 12

Early dismissal 16 September at 1.00pm

The final day for Term 3 is Thursday 16 September. In order to accommodate the Parent-Teacher interviews on this day, students will be dismissed / end online classes **at 1.00pm**. Parents & carers eligible for onsite student attendance who require supervision after this time will need to contact Camp Australia to book in your child.

19 October Staff PL day cancelled

Due to the loss of on-campus days through lockdown, the Staff Spirituality Day originally scheduled for 19 October has been cancelled, prioritising learning time instead. **Tuesday 19 October will be a normal school day for all students** (and hopefully with many or most able to be on-campus).



COVID-19 Vaccinations: Unit 3-4 student 'blitz'

The announcement on 1 September of the extension of lockdown due to the continually rising cases also came with a recognition from the government that the main means to reopen safely and to prevent future lockdowns is to increase the vaccination rates in the community. As part of the COVID-19 vaccination roll-out, **all students aged 16 and older can now book a Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at state vaccination centres**.

To ensure our senior students have certainty and are ready for end-of-year exams, the Premier announced a 'vaccination booking blitz' from Tuesday 7 September to Friday 17 September, urging all Unit 3-4 students and their teachers to receive at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose before the GAT on Tuesday 5 October. As part of this program, Year 12 students (and any student studying a Unit 3-4 subject) and their teachers will be given priority booking access at state-run clinics, as will those supervising exams. Students and teachers will need to book an appointment, as walk-ups will not be available. Students and teachers will be able to book one of these priority appointments from Monday 6 September either online or by **calling the priority VCE vaccination number 1800 434 144**.



The Victorian Department of Health is hosting a live webinar for final year school students, their families and educators to provide information on COVID-19 vaccination. You can join

the **free webinar on Thursday 9 September, 6–7 pm**. Registration is via Eventbrite.

Topics covered include:

- vaccines, development and safety
- accessing and consenting to a vaccination
- how to book an appointment
- Q+A with the panel.

This event will be held via Microsoft Teams Live.

Young people aged 12-15 years are also eligible to receive a coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine if they:

- Have an underlying medical condition
- Are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

Information about vaccines and eligibility can be found on the Department of Health website: Who can get vaccinated against COVID-19 | Coronavirus Victoria.

We encourage all community who are eligible to receive one of the available COVID-19 vaccines to join the many staff and parents who have already received their first vaccination. Comprehensive information on the COVID-19 vaccines is available from both the Australian Government and Victorian government websites.

COVIDsafe measures during lockdown (to 17 September)

The extension of lockdown has further delayed welcoming back all our students and staff on-campus: we can't wait to welcome you back in Term 4 (at a date to be announced by the government).

In accordance with the latest School Operations Guide (released 3 September), the following measures are in place to protect our College and Community:

- No visitors are permitted to access the property (this includes parents and carers).
 - o Year 4 – 12 students who need to come onsite to retrieve learning materials from their locker are asked to please bring their Marymede ID card to show to the camera at the gate near the Main reception (please avoid entering the building). Reception staff will then 'buzz' the student through the main gate. Any parents or others who transport the student should remain in their car. The student will need to arrive between 8am – 4.30pm on any weekday and should avoid missing any class Zooms.
- Any permitted visitors who enter a building and all Unit 3-4 students attending for permitted assessment / rehearsal must register at Main Reception or Finance using the QR code. A COVID-Check-in Marshall is required to verify the completion of the QR-code check-in.
- The vast majority of students will conduct their learning from home.
 - o Only those students for whom all adults in the home have a valid Authorised Worker Permit and no adult supervision is available at home or who have a

diagnosed disability may apply for on-campus supervision of their remote learning. Eligible students must be registered online: please email all Authorised Worker Permits to

Nicole.lawrenson@marymede.vic.edu.au to obtain the online registration link.

Please note that it is a breach of government regulations to have your child supervised at someone else's home: please contact the College (even at very short notice) if all Authorised Workers are required to be onsite or an emergency arises to cause the need for supervision of your child(ren).

- All staff and secondary school students permitted for on-campus remote learning must wear a face mask at all times (unless they have a lawful exemption). All primary students are highly recommended to also be wearing a face mask. Masks may only be removed to eat or drink.
- All visitors (including parents) who are permitted onsite must wear a face mask at all times (unless they have a lawful exemption)
- All students using public transport are required to check-in using the QR code; all Secondary school students are also required to wear a face mask when using any school bus or public transport.
- A density limit of 1 person per 4m² will be observed in all areas accessed by permitted visitors.
- Parents and carers are reminded to maintain 1.5m social distancing at all times.



To keep up to date with the changing COVID situation and latest government regulations, please visit:

- www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/exposure-sites
- www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/face-masks

We thank parents and carers for your continuing support and understanding of the measures taken to protect all community members.

Mr David Broadbent
Deputy Principal Staff & Operations P-12

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL LEARNING AND TEACHING PREP – YEAR 12

Mid-Semester Report

This report provides feedback on your child's learning dispositions and work habits. We understand it has been a particularly challenging time for students having been in lockdown for the majority of this term and have used observations made in the remote learning environment to inform these reports. They are now accessible via PAM by

clicking on your child's name or photo and then Assessment Reports. I encourage you to please access these reports in preparation for the upcoming Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews.

Prep – Year 10 Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews

Bookings are now open via PAM for the Prep – Year 10 parent/teacher/student interviews occurring next Tuesday 4pm – 7pm and Thursday 2pm – 7pm. These will be occurring via Zoom. Please access the teacher's virtual room via PAM at your booked appointment time.

NAPLAN results

Congratulations to our Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students on their strong NAPLAN results. The individual student reports have been posted home and should be received this week. If you have any questions regarding your child's results, please make contact with the relevant teacher. We are committed to continual improvement and will be further analysing both the individual and cohort data to further inform our teaching and learning program and target individual student needs.

Mrs Jessica Hall
Deputy Principal Learning & Teaching P-12

CO-CURRICULAR

Co-Curricular Overview

It has been wonderful to see the continued engagement of students with the co-curriculum @ home program over recent weeks. To mark "World Distance Learning Day" in August, students were invited to share a message of thanks to a teacher who has helped to support them during online learning. It was my absolute pleasure to pass these messages on to teachers at the end of a long week.

This week has centred on R U OK Day (September 9), so we have incorporated this into our activities with a focus on kindness, connection and personal wellbeing, as well as a new episode of Dance Club, a new recipe for Marymede MasterChef, and some art and STEM activities which have been popular additions in the past. Thank you to the parents who have supported and encouraged their children to participate in the program: we hope that your child is feeling the benefits of these activities.

On Monday 13 September we will celebrate Footy Day. Students are invited to wear footy colours (any code) to celebrate the AFL footy finals and earn house points. Teachers will record the points for participation, and the house with the highest number of participants will be rewarded with up to 50 points. There will also be plenty of other footy related activities so stay tuned to SIMON & Seesaw for next week's program.

Co-Curricular House Shield Leaderboard

HOUSE SHIELD LEADERBOARD

Updated 6/09/2021



PRIMARY	
1st	ROMERO
2nd	CHISHOLM
3rd	MCAULEY
4th	CHANEL
5th	MCCORMACK
6th	MARCELLIN

SECONDARY	
1st	CHANEL
2nd	MCAULEY
3rd	MARCELLIN
4th	CHISHOLM
5th	ROMERO
6th	MCCORMACK

Well done to Chanel (Secondary) who have taken over the top spot for the secondary leaderboard. Chanel have had outstanding participation rates and won the Strava House Movement challenge 2 weeks in a row. Romero (Primary) still lead the Co-Curricular House Shield Competition.

If you would like more information on any of our co-curricular activities please contact Melanie.Wason@marymede.vic.edu.au

Ms Melanie Wason
Co-Curricular Assistant

STUDENT WELLBEING

eSmart Week: 6 - 12 September

Despite the challenges of remote learning, our students are able to maintain their learning and friendships through online tools that they are able to access.

*'Staying connected online has never been more important. The internet is a great way to socialise, learn, work, play and be entertained. But there are also risks'.
(eSafety Commissioner)*

Marymede has signed up to become an eSmart school - accredited with the eSafety Commission. This will ensure that as a community we are doing all we can to assist all members safe and supported while online. We aim to provide students with the knowledge and skills to navigate online challenges.

The eSafety Guide is a good starting point to learn about popular apps your children are using. Other sources include Common sense app guide and Connect safely, which provide excellent information about the most popular apps.

Please click on the link below for some excellent information about keeping you and your family safe online via the eSafety booklet for parents and careers: e safety covid-19 advice for parents & carers. Here is a sample of their advice:

Ways to prevent unwanted contact

With more people engaging online, it is even more important to ensure all the conversations our children have are safe, healthy and wanted. Parents and carers need to keep an eye out for unwanted contact and know how to respond.

- **Stay involved in your child's digital world** — keep up to date with the websites, apps and online chat services they are using, and explore them together.
- **Build an open trusting relationship** — keep communication open and calm so they know they can come to you when someone is asking them to do something that does not feel right.
- **Help your child to protect their privacy** — encourage your child to use their privacy settings on social media sites to restrict their online information to known friends only.
- **Teach your child to be alert to signs of inappropriate contact** — help them recognise signs that an online 'friend' may be trying to develop an inappropriate relationship.
- **Establish safety guidelines for meeting online 'friends'** — explain that it is safest to keep online 'friends' online.
- **What to do if something goes wrong** — talk to them without being judgemental or angry and make them feel like they can come to you with anything, without fear of being punished or criticised. Find out what happened and act to protect your child.

Cybersafety expert Susan McLean offers a range of information to support families navigate the online world. Here is a link to her website where you can view a range of informative videos on how you can support your child safe in cyberspace:

<http://www.cybersafetysolutions.com.au/keeping-safe-in-cyberspace/>

R U Okay Day



Today is R U OK? Day for 2021. R U OK? is a national charity inspiring and empowering everyone to meaningfully connect with people around them and support anyone struggling with life, something more important than ever during this time of extended COVID restrictions. Looking out for one another and lending support is a key life skill for any age group. R U OK? seeks to create a world where we're all connected. We're never too young to look out for one another and meaningfully connect.

<http://vimeo.com/594515979>

Marymede students from P-12 have participated in age-appropriate R U OK? Activities across this week, beginning with the extended AM assembly time on Monday morning. We acknowledge our Year 12 and Year 11 VCAL students who have prepared a number of resources for the whole school to utilise.

Many factors can contribute to someone feeling low. It isn't always easy to know whether someone is OK, particularly if they haven't talked about it or children have yet to recognise the importance of changes in behaviour. However, there are signs children can become familiar with which could indicate that a friend may not be OK.

R U OKAY DAY Family Activities

Children cannot be expected to fix someone's problems, nor know the best way to help and support. However, they can be encouraged to listen to what their friend is saying, let them know they care and tell a teacher, school counsellor or trusted adult if they are worried about their friend. By promoting an environment of positive peer support and accessing support channels via an adult, children can learn that asking, 'Are you OK?' is a key life skill.

Useful contacts when a child is not OK include:

- Marymede Wellbeing team:
counselling@marymede.vic.edu.au
- GP or psychologist
- Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800
- Lifeline on 13 11 14
- '000' if life is in imminent danger

Lisa Murray
Acting Director of Students (5-6) & Student Wellbeing
Leader P-6