



29 July 2021

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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

It was wonderful to have our students back on campus yesterday and to see their smiling faces.

In many ways, this time of year is one of the most challenging for our students. With the weather at its worst and with the recent added pressure of the return to home learning, it can prove difficult for some of our students to maintain their focus on learning.

It is more important than ever that our staff and parents work together to provide the best possible support we can for our children in these uncertain times. I can assure parents that regular contact has been made with your child to see how they have coped at home by their Primary Core teacher or their Secondary Tutor teacher.

### Term 3 School Events

As a result of the reintroduction of stage four lockdown restrictions, we have had to either postpone, cancel or alter the many school events we had planned in the first four weeks of Term 3. Further information will be provided once more information comes out from the State Government about any changes to the social distancing restrictions in place.

### Year 11 2022 Subject Selection

It was pleasing to see so many parents attend our online Subject Selection Information presentation last Tuesday for current Year 10 families. The best pathway discussions are made after students, parents, Careers Counsellors, Domain Leaders and Subject teachers talk and listen to each other.

### New Marymede Principal 2022

Last Thursday, all our parents received an email from Christopher Bence (Chair of the Selection Panel), announcing that Tim Newcomb (Vice Principal, St. Francis Xavier

Beaconsfield) will be the new Principal of Marymede Catholic College from the start of the 2022 school year.

I contacted Tim to congratulate him on his appointment and he commented on just how much he is looking forward to joining the Marymede College Community. I plan to invite Tim to the College later this term to meet our staff and students.

**Mr. Michael Kenny**  
**Principal**

## DEPUTY PRINCIPAL STAFF AND OPERATIONS PREP – YEAR 12

### Community consultation: Positive Behaviour Expectations (PB4L)

As mentioned in the College newsletter of 17 June, Marymede Catholic College has begun the journey to implement Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L) as the framework for behaviour expectations for all members of our community.

Recently, Marymede staff have identified 10 school-wide behaviour expectations they believe should form the base positive behaviour expectations for Marymede Catholic College. From this list, 3 or 4 expectations will be chosen to create the Positive Behaviour Expectations Framework for Marymede Catholic College.

We now invite your input as parents and carers of Marymede students to identify your top 3 expectations from the list provided via the following survey link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/OND3z6RLn7>

The survey will be open until **Monday 9 August**. The results of this consultation will then be combined with staff and student input to choose the list of Positive Behaviour Expectations for Marymede.

### Support webinars for parents

While social media platforms can assist with maintaining friendships – particularly during times of lockdown and restrictions – cybersafety issues have been present in these

same platforms for many years, and the advent of remote learning over the past 18 months has seen a significant rise in cybersafety concerns. The Australian eSafety Commissioner is providing one-hour webinars to support parents in understanding different social media platforms and helping parents to support their children to have safe, enjoyable online experiences.

Please see the attached pamphlets for details of how to register for these webinars:

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## Post-lockdown COVIDsafe measures

We are pleased to welcome back our students onsite after the recent lockdown; however, in accordance with the latest School Operations Guide (released 27 July), parents and visitors are currently not permitted on-campus.

The following measures are in place to protect our College and Community:

- No walk-in parent access at drop-off or pickup  
- Limited on-site walk-in pickup access for Prep & Year 1 parents only: all parents entering the College must be wearing a mask.
- All staff and secondary school students must wear a face mask at all times (unless they have a lawful exemption). Masks may only be removed to eat or drink.
- All visitors (including parents) who are permitted onsite must wear a face mask (unless they have a lawful exemption)
- All visitors (including parents) permitted to enter a building 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.
- Spectators are not permitted at interschool sporting events.
- 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
- Secondary students attending any off-site activities (e.g. excursion, work placement or external VET studies) must wear a face mask at the external venue
- A density limit of 1 person per 4m<sup>2</sup> will be observed in all areas accessed by visitors.
- Parents and carers are reminded to maintain 1.5m social distancing at all times.

The most important action school communities can take to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 is to ensure that any unwell staff and students remain at home and get tested, even with the mildest of symptoms. As noted in a recent article in *The Age*, the symptoms for the current Delta strain of COVID-19 differ from previous strains:

- *The most common signs for those fully and partially vaccinated included a headache, runny nose, and sneezing, followed by a sore throat. For those not vaccinated, it also included fever.*
- *Burnet Institute epidemiologist Michael Toole said ... "In winter, we're all used to having a runny nose, a cold. But now, people should all be aware that a runny nose may not be the common cold; it may be COVID"*

Parents and carers eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine are also urged to follow the lead of the many Marymede staff who have received either the AstraZeneca or the Pfizer vaccine.



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

<http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/exposure-sites>

<http://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

### Welcome Back

We are very happy to have our students back on campus, re-establishing their routines and reconnecting with their friends and teachers face to face. Our teachers worked hard to keep the online environment engaging and we appreciate the support that parents gave during this lockdown, assisting our primary students to upload more than 500,000 posts to Seesaw and our secondary students attending hundreds of online classes and submitting various class tasks. We know how challenging remote learning has been and appreciate the efforts of all the members of our community to provide learning continuity for all our students.

### Subject Selection

Thank you to parents who were able to attend our virtual subject selection parent information evening on Tuesday. A

reminder to please access the subject handbook available on PAM and continue the conversation with your son or daughter so they are making informed choices. As always, we endeavour to accommodate as many selections as possible, but this is dependent upon student numbers and timetable blocking. Information for our current Year 7 students about selections for next year will be distributed next week.

## Unit 3/4 Update - GAT & Consideration of Educational Disadvantage

As announced last week the General Achievement Test (GAT) has again been postponed to Thursday 12 August. The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority also confirmed the Consideration of Educational Disadvantage process will also continue in 2021 in light of continued disruptions of coronavirus lockdowns. The CED process ensures that every student is assessed fairly, with any disruptions to learning throughout the year factored into their results. We continue to support our senior students through the additional challenges they've faced this year and encourage them to continue to make the most of the additional sessions running before and after school once they return on campus.

## Early Entry Programs

Now open for Year 12 students to apply. Successful students are guaranteed a conditional place in a course, based on a variety of criteria:

- ACU Guaranteed - uses Year 11 results and responses to questions regarding overcoming adversity, contribution to others and personal circumstances. If successful - no ATAR is required.
- VU Guaranteed - for University and TAFE courses. As a partner school, students respond to questions and are eligible for two \$2000 scholarships.
- La Trobe ASPIRE Program - for students who have volunteered or undertaken leadership in the community or at school.

For further information or support with applications students are asked to make an appointment via our careers website.

**Mrs Jessica Hall**  
**Deputy Principal Learning & Teaching P-12**

## Student Wellbeing P-6

### Respectful Relationships in the Primary School

The Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships Topic for the start of Term Three is Stress Management. This is a very important topic for everyone, especially during these challenging times we are living through!

The RRRR Classroom Program provides an opportunity for students to identify the types of experience that they find stressful.

They also include an explicit focus on teaching approaches to stress-management, including:

- a range of guided relaxation exercises to practice self-calming

- breathing and counting techniques to manage anger
- use of positive and technical self-talk
- use of productive coping strategies
- use of games as a discussion point for self-cheering activities

### Self-calming strategies help people release tension and to regulate their emotions

- Relaxation, anger-management, and self-calming strategies can be taught to children and young people
- Research shows that students appreciate the chance to learn and practice these strategies and feel the need to apply them in their lives

### Family activities you may like to try at home:

1. **With a family member, write a list of actions you can take to deal with stress, fear or anger. Name this list: *Our Family's Calming Strategies* . Display this list somewhere at home.**
2. **Do something active with a family member today. Turn off screens, get out and play, listen to music, draw together or have a dance!**
3. **Create a stress-free space or a space within your home that your family can use to wind down.**

The Raising Children Network website below has helpful information and resources for parents to help manage their own stress.

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/guides/first-1000-days/looking-after-yourself/stress-grown-ups>

Please contact your child's CORE teacher, myself, or the Student Services Team if you would any further support in this area.

**Lisa Murray**  
**Student Wellbeing Leader P-6**

## CAREERS

### Careers Website

The Marymede Careers website is a place where students and parents can gather comprehensive information on all career related topics. These topics include career search applicators, tertiary entrance information, information on VCAL pathways and the options students have with completing a Vocational Education and Training (VET) certificate in their senior years of study.

Online bookings are now available on the website, which is the preferred method of booking appointments to access our career service.

Access the Marymede careers website here:

<https://www.marymedecareers.com/>

## Subject Selections

This term students in Years 10, 11 and 12 will have the opportunity to be involved in careers counselling sessions. The purpose of these sessions is to prepare students for next year, with a different objective at each year level.

Year level	Career objective
10 into 11	Create a career pathway by considering VCE, VCAL and VET opportunities. Assistance with Subject Selections.
11 into 12	Review current pathway and make changes if necessary
12 futures	Assist students with VTAC applications or facilitate transitions into the workforce.

Any Year 9 student who would like assistance in choosing subjects for next year are more than welcome to book in for a counselling session as well.

Subject selection key dates:

Year level	Web preferences open	Web preferences Close
9 into 10	18th August 9.00am	24th August 9.00pm
10 into 11	29th July 9.00am	5th August 9.00pm
11 into 12	29th July 9.00am	6th August 9.00pm

## Open Days

Please see below a list of the upcoming Victorian tertiary open days. Please contact me if you require dates for interstate open days.

**Maria Esnouf**  
**Careers Co-ordinator**