



A COMPLETE EDUCATION
A PREP TO YEAR 12 CATHOLIC CO-EDUCATIONAL COLLEGE



From the Office of the Principal

28 January 2022.

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

I hope that your week is going well.

Welcome to the 2022 school year! I especially welcome students and their parents who are new to Marymede Catholic College this year.

The College theme for this year is *Known and Loved – dignity for all*. This theme will offer us a wonderful lens to explore our Catholic Identity throughout 2022.

I look forward to collaborating with you, your children and the staff to enliven our Catholic Identity, foster student wellbeing and differentiate the learning program to support the learning and growth of all students throughout 2022.

I would like to thank the many staff who have been working over the student break to support our readiness for the school year. In particular, a range of facilities have been established or enhanced over recent weeks and we look forward to the students benefiting from these developments.

The College Leadership Team has met during this week to continue planning for this school year. A significant focus has been how the College will respond to the current COVID-19 situation.

Start of the school year and the COVID-19 context

I would like to offer you a further update on the start of the school year, particularly in light of the continuing COVID-19 context.

Monday 31 January

- Prep *Meet the Teacher* and Years 1 – 6 Testing (by appointment).
- Parents are requested to wait outside the relevant building for the teacher to call your child in for their appointment.
- Please contact Leanne.Easdon@marymede.vic.edu.au with any questions regarding Prep *Meet the Teacher*.
- Please contact Ainsley.Dean@marymede.vic.edu.au with any questions regarding Years 1 – 6 Testing.

Tuesday 1 February

- Prep *Meet the Teacher* and Years 1 – 6 Testing (by appointment).
- Year 7 and Year 12 VCE and VCAL students (including Year 11 students studying VCE Units 3 and 4) begin classes (8:45am start).
- Please contact Jack Mather, Director of Students (7-9), Jack.Mather@marymede.vic.edu.au with any questions regarding the first day of Year 7.
- Year 11 students studying VCE Units 3 and 4 subjects are only required to attend their scheduled Unit 3 class on this day.



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Wednesday 2 February

- Prep half day (8:45am - 1:00pm).
- Years 1 - 6 and Years 8 - 11 begin classes (8:45am start).

School COVID-19 responses

I offer the following summary of some of the measures the College is putting in place for the first four weeks of the school year.

- The College has received more air purifiers which will be operating.
- Ventilation in classrooms will be used.
- Parent gathering for drop off and pick up will be minimised. Only parents of Prep children are permitted to enter the school gates for drop off and pick up.
- Staff and students are asked to when washing, use soap and water. Hand sanitiser is provided at many locations around the College.
- Physical distancing is promoted.
- There will be no student eating inside whenever possible.
- Masks will be worn by staff and students from Year 3 and above when indoors.
- Students with an exemption to wear a mask will be provided with a card or similar noting this exemption. Parents are required to make contact with the relevant Director of Students to discuss matters relating to their child wearing a face mask.
 - Year 3: Narelle Collins, Narelle.Collins@marymede.vic.edu.au
 - Year 4 to Year 6: Lisa Murray, Lisa.Murray@marymede.vic.edu.au
 - Year 7 to Year 9: Jack Mather, Jack.Mather@marymede.vic.edu.au
 - Year 10 to Year 12: David Brick, David.Brick@marymede.vic.edu.au
- Students will be kept to groups of single classes; i.e. no combined classes or assemblies etc.
- Some College events will be deferred for a period of time. Further details will be communicated.
- As per State Government requirements, all staff, contractors and volunteers are required to be vaccinated or medically exempt.
- All visitors to the College must be vaccinated and check in with a QR code when on school grounds.
- Parents are asked to keep their child at home if they are unwell even if they have a negative RAT Test outcome.



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- Free rapid antigen tests (RAT) will be provided for staff and students in Victorian schools for the first four weeks of Term 1 2022. Rapid antigen testing will be voluntary for all primary and secondary school students and staff. The recommended rapid antigen testing schedule is twice per week on school days.
- Tests will be distributed to parents of primary students when they attend Prep *Meet the Teacher* or Years 1 - 6 Testing across Monday 31 January and Tuesday 1 February. Parents who do not attend on these days may collect the pack from Main Reception from Wednesday 2 February. Pastoral Teachers will distribute the packs to students on Tuesday 1 February for Years 7 and 12 and Wednesday 2 February for Years 8 - 11. From Friday 4 February, packs for secondary students can be collected from Main Reception. One pack of five tests will be distributed in Week One and another pack of five tests will be distributed in Week Three of Term One.
- Tests will be conducted at home. If students receive a positive RAT test result at any time, they must report this through the Department of Health system via 1800 675 398. Parents must also report a positive RAT or PCR result to the school via the Marymede Positive COVID Result Notification Form and to the Education Department via <https://covidtest.educationapps.vic.gov.au/>
- If a student is positive or is a Household Close Contact they will need to isolate for 7 days. The College will provide some work for students to continue with at home, however, it will not be remote learning.
- If a student has been identified as a Social Contact or Education Contact (at school) with a case of COVID-19 (not Household Contact) and is asymptomatic, they may continue to attend school and monitor for symptoms, preferably taking a RAT each day for 5 days.
- If a student has been in contact with a case of COVID-19 (not Household Contact) including at school and is symptomatic, they must stay home, take a RAT or get a PCR test. Once the student receives a negative result and no longer has any symptoms, the student can return to school. If the student has any symptoms, they must continue to stay home from school (even with a negative RAT result).
- The College will notify the school community through a daily email when a student or staff member has returned a positive COVID-19 result and had attended the school. Classes will generally not be sent home during the school day.
- Remote learning will only be considered as a localised, short term, last resort option.
- These measures, along with others, will form the basis of the College's COVIDsafe Plan. It is possible that COVID-19 may offer some challenges for the start of the school year. Please understand that College staff intend to work in partnership with parents and students to create as safe an environment as possible as we lead the learning program. If at any stage you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please make contact with the College.



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Early Learning Centre

The College has received details regarding the COVIDsafe measures that the Early Learning Centre is required to implement. Naomi Rigney, Director, Marymede Early Learning Centre, will be leading the implementation of the required measures.

Student wellbeing

The College is very conscious of a range of ways that the COVID-19 context has and may impact on student wellbeing. Pastoral Teachers and Primary Core Teachers will be conducting class wellbeing check-ins each day and enacting strategies to monitor the wellbeing of individuals once a week.

If your child is particularly challenged from a wellbeing point of view, please inform the College so that we can partner with you to assist your child. Please begin by raising these matters with your child's Pastoral Teacher/Primary Core Teacher.

Additionally, please know that the College has a team of qualified Counsellors and Psychologists to support students. Student Counsellors and Psychologists can be contacted by parents and secondary students at counselling@marymede.vic.edu.au.

The following community support groups may also be of assistance for your child:

- Beyond Blue: 1300 22 46 36 <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/>
- Headspace <https://headspace.org.au/>
- Reach out <https://au.reachout.com/>

Parent support

Supporting children during the pandemic has been challenging for parents. Please be aware of the following counselling services for parents who need support:

- Parentline: 13 22 89
- Lifeline: 13 11 14 or <https://www.lifeline.org.au>
- Beyond Blue: 1300 22 46 36 <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/>

Other start of the school year matters

New staff

I extend a warm welcome to the following staff who, like me, are joining Marymede Catholic College for the start of the 2022 school year.

- Carl Adams - Grade 5 Teacher
- Jason Austin - VET Building and Construction Teacher
- Meaghan Bennet - Learning Support Officer
- Daniela Calabro - Learning Support Officer
- Thomas Clayton - Secondary English Teacher
- Bianca Cooper - Year 5 Teacher
- Teresa Di Giulio - Italian Language Assistant
- Nuwin Fernando - Youth Minister
- Samantha Ferraro - Secondary Maths and Religious Education Teacher
- Sonia Finlayson - Secondary Media Teacher

From the Office of the Principal

- Renee Fitzgerald - Secondary Sports Assistant
- Chelsea Ford - Year 6 Teacher
- Lauren Ford - Secondary Maths and Science Teacher
- Adelina Gaudio - Learning Support Officer
- Jason Gilchrist - Visual Arts Domain Leader
- Annemarie Gullaci - Secondary English and Humanities Teacher
- Emily Hawke - Year 4 Teacher
- Xavier Lane - Secondary Maths and Science Teacher
- Marissa Marino - Prep to Year 5 Italian Teacher
- Cameron McPhail - Secondary Maths and VCAL Teacher
- Carly O'Neal-Shiplely - Primary Student Wellbeing Coordinator
- Amelia Rambaldi - Year 4 Teacher
- Ben Stennett - Secondary Computing and Humanities Teacher
- Kimberley Suta - Secondary English and Religious Education Teacher
- Nathan Thompson - Secondary Health and Physical Education Teacher
- Emily Turner - Secondary English and Religious Education Teacher
- Madison Young - Secondary Health and Physical Education and Maths Teacher

Parent Access Module - PAM

The College's intranet for parents is called PAM. PAM can be accessed via <https://pam.marymede.vic.edu.au>. PAM provides parents with information regarding their child's timetable, attendance records, upcoming assessment tasks and due dates, academic results and reports, bookings for Student Progress interviews and the College calendar.

Please contact Trent.Brownjohn@marymede.vic.edu.au with any queries regarding accessing PAM.

Pastoral Care: Renaming of Tutor Groups and Teachers

To support a better understanding of the purpose of Tutor Group across Years 7 - 12, they will be renamed Pastoral Group as of this year and the staff member will be referred to as the Pastoral Teacher.

New House and extra Pastoral Group

As was communicated by the College throughout 2021, Marymede Catholic College enrolments have increased at a rate that required a new House (MacKillop) to be introduced and an extra Pastoral Group per House. Thank you to those students and families who in 2021 completed the two surveys in relation to this, and we wish the students moving into MacKillop House all the best. In order to populate the 7th Pastoral Group in each House for this year, some Pastoral Teachers needed to shift groups and students will be moved across the House into a different Pastoral Group for this year. Some families indicated in the first survey they would like to remain in their current group and this has been accommodated. After what we have experienced these past two years, 2022 aims to provide a fresh start and new opportunities to develop and build Pastoral Group and House culture.

Marymede Private School Buses

The private bus service ran by the College will recommence operation on Tuesday 1 February.



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College Canteen

The College Canteen will begin operating on Tuesday 1 February. To register for the canteen online ordering services please visit www.flexischools.com.au.

Meetings via video conference

Please know that in 2022 the College is moving in the direction of using MS (Microsoft) Teams for all online meetings. Meetings on MS Teams can be accessed on a range of browsers using links which are distributed by the College. More information on this will be shared progressively.

Uniform

Correct wearing of the College uniform and personal presentation is important for student pride, school culture, safety, educative for moments away from school and contributes to creating an environment where learning is taken seriously as the focus of the school.

As the beginning of the year approaches, I ask parents to remind their children that all students are expected to wear the full school uniform when at school and when travelling to and from the College.

Summer uniform is worn in Term One and includes the following.

Secondary students

- College blazer (must be worn as the outer garment to and from school and to Pastoral Group in the mornings).
- Dress worn to knee length with short plain blue socks and College Hat.
- Shorts with short sleeve shirt and short blue with stripe socks and College Cap.
- Pullover (Ink colour for Years 7 - 10).
- Pullover (Maroon colour for VCE/VCAL).
- Shoes: black leather lace-up or T-bar shoes with a small heel.
- Hair accessories need to be ink or maroon in colour.
- School bag.

Sports uniform:

- College polo shirt and shorts.
- Socks (white with band).
- College cap.
- Sport shoes with appropriate support - no fashion or canvas shoe is acceptable.

Primary students

- Dress, sky ankle socks.
- Polo top, shorts, ink short socks.
- Pullover.
- Hat.
- Shoes: black leather lace-up or T-bar shoes with a small heel. Prep and Year 1 students may have a Velcro strap instead of laces.



From the Office of the Principal

Hairstyles and grooming

- Hair must be:
 - clean, neatly styled and tied back off the face. Accessories need to be ink or maroon in colour.
 - tied back off the collar if it is shoulder length or longer.
- Extreme hairstyles are not permitted. This includes dreadlocks, mullets, shaved hair less than a number three blade and severe variations to hair length and/or colour etc.
- Hair must be natural in colour. Unnatural hair colours are not permitted. Tips and streaks that are different from the natural colour are not permitted.
- Students must be clean shaven.
- Makeup, lash tinting and lash extensions, coloured nail polish, nail extensions and false nails are not permitted.

Jewellery

- Students are permitted to wear one pair of small silver or gold sleepers or studs, clear stone or gems in the bottom earlobe. No other piercings are permitted including clear plastic plugs and band-aids over piercings.
- Watches may be worn. Smart watches are not permitted.
- A gold or silver chain with a cross is permitted as a symbol of faith.
- No other jewellery is permitted.

School Fees

Please be informed that Fee Statements will be sent out to parents in the next few days.

College Newsletter

The first College fortnightly newsletter of the year will be published on Thursday 3 February (an email will alert parents and provide a link to the online newsletter. In this newsletter, I look forward to sharing experiences of the first few days of the school year, outlining keys dates for 2022 and detailing the names of College Leaders for 2022.

Thank you again for your support. I look forward to seeing your child return to school next week. Most importantly, I hope that they are looking forward to a positive year of growth and learning in 2022.

Sincerely,



Timothy Newcomb
Principal