

Tuesday 19th May, 2020
Update No 8 T2 PU

Dear Parents/Care-givers,

The College is in its final phases of preparation for the full return of students next Monday 25th May 2020. This will be Day 1 of the "PreCovid19" Timetable, i.e. the normal 10 day cycle timetable the students started at the beginning of the year.

Each day for the past two weeks I have been surveying the staff about the processes and procedures of the return to students as well as the measures we have introduced to assist in mitigating the spread of Covid19. Our staggered return to the College has been very successful and we look forward to welcoming all our young people back to the College next week.

What will school look like when your young people return:

- If your young person is **unwell**, please do not send them to school that day and don't forget to contact the College on 9487 3555 or email stleos@dbb.catholic.edu.au
- Students attending the College should be in **full winter uniform** and adhering to the College **Grooming Policy** (see College Diary)
- If possible please ensure your young person brings their own **personal sanitiser and filled water bottle**
- The **Yardley Ave and Unwin Rd** entrance gates will be open for normal access, both in the morning and afternoon
- **Sanitise** your hands upon entering the College grounds
- We ask the students to be respectful of interactions with staff, adhering to the **1.5m social distancing**
- The College will start at the normal time of **8.30am**
- The **College Canteen** will be operating as normal
- Over the next few days, teachers will be using **formative assessment** in their classes to see where your young person is at, in terms of their learning, after the past 8 weeks.
(What is "formative assessment"? - As assessment expert, Paul Black says "It's when the cook tastes the soup. That's formative assessment"). This will give teachers a better indicator of what they need to go over, particular content learning needs of individual students, and a general evaluation of where the class is at with their work.
- The College has installed a hand sanitiser dispenser in each classroom. This is in addition to the 13 hand sanitisers positioned around the College grounds (thanks Laith of Yr 12 for demonstrating its use)
- We have employed a **hygienist** whose role is to spot clean horizontal surfaces, door handles, stair rails and high use areas of the College continually during the day
- Students should **sanitise their hands before and after each class**, either with their own sanitiser or one of the sanitiser stations around the College grounds



- Students should pay attention to the **signage** around the College listing strategies to mitigate the spread of Covid 19.
- There will be **capped numbers of students in the ARC** (Aquinas Resource Centre - the old library)
- The water bubblers have been disconnected - the **water refill stations** are still available.
- **PDHPE prac classes** will commence with certain restrictions and use of sanitised equipment
- **Sport for Life (Year Group sport)** will commence immediately with certain restrictions and use of sanitised equipment. All sports will be conducted onsite.
- **Deeper cleans of the classrooms** each evening
- For this week - **Week 5** - there will be **no co-curricular activities** for students. These will be gradually phased back in from the start of Week 6
- There will be **NO College assemblies, excursions or interschool sport** until it is permitted by the various governing bodies.

Please ensure your young person reads and understands the College Hygiene precautions document before returning to school, [please follow this link](#).

For those students who are either immunocompromised or can not return to the College because a member of their family is in a high-risk category, please contact your relevant Leader of Year so this issue can be discussed.

Sport For Life (Internal Sport):

This will take place on the normal days of the timetable.

*Intake 2020 (Yr 7) - Day 3
Yr 8 - Day 4*

*Yr 9 - Day 1
Yr 10 - Day 8*

The sports will be selected from the following:

Cross Country; Badminton; Dodgeball; Volleyball; Obstacle Course / Fitness; Hockey; Table Tennis and Cricket

All sports will be conducted onsite until restrictions are lifted. [Here is a link for further details of the current program](#).

Transport:

The College is aware of potential transport issues commencing from Monday. Normally 84% of our young people catch the train to and from the College. We will be monitoring this issue closely. We have a number of ideas as opposed to strategies) but we will wait to see what develops from next week. Watch this space! The Community Engagement Officer of Transport Sydney Trains and Transdev NSW has been in contact.

[Further information from Transport NSW is here](#).

Staff Development Day:

Yesterday I was notified by the Catholic Schools Office that there will be a Diocesan wide Staff Development Day on the last day of Term II; Friday, 3 July. So this means that your young person will commence their Term 2 holidays one day earlier. Given the current situation there will be NO Staff Development Day on the first day back in Term 3. Students' first day of Term 3 will be Monday 20 July.

Zoom Meeting this Evening:

I hope to see and hear from some of our Years 10 and 12 parents/caregivers this evening at the Morrisby Profile Zoom Meeting at 6.30pm. (<https://dbbcatholic.zoom.us/j/9494671427>). Many students in Years 10 and 12 have completed their profile and have (or will have) an opportunity to discuss their possible career profiling with Mr Smith, Ms Sykes or Ms Timmerman. Here is the link for further details. I

will only be able to join in for a while, before a Diocesan Zoom meeting commences at 7.30pm. Linked is more information about the [Morrisby Career Profiling](#).

Update - Contact Numbers, Addresses:

Over the past few weeks a number of staff have been ringing parents to discuss their young person. We have discovered that in some cases contact details, changes in phone numbers etc have not been updated. I would ask you to contact College Reception for any updated information, particularly emergency contacts.

Our next update later this week will contain a survey for parents/caregivers about where we go in light of our learnings/experiences of the Remote Learning Model that you have all been part of over the past two months.

It has been a journey - and one that will continue to be an interesting one. Personally, my wife and I are looking forward to a lower food bill as our young people will be gradually returning to work/school/Uni over the next few weeks. At least the dog has enjoyed the constant walks and attention! Professionally I have immensely enjoyed the creativeness, and the great sense of care of others I have witnessed over these past two months. We need to continue to look after one another in this same way. As parents/caregivers, students and staff - together we can successfully negotiate many obstacles, not only now but for the many dilemmas and issues that lie in front of us. Let's be aware of what we have experienced and take those learnings and positive attitudes into our next challenge - whatever that maybe.

In concluding, I thought I would share with you the following reflection/prayer which is an uplifting take on our current circumstances.

When you go out and see the empty streets, the empty stadiums, the empty train platforms, don't say to yourself, "It looks like the end of the world."

What you're seeing is love in action. What you're seeing, in that negative space, is how much we do care for each other, for our grandparents, for the immuno-compromised brothers and sisters, for people we will never meet.

People will lose jobs over this. Some will lose their businesses. And some will lose their lives. All the more reason to take a moment, when you're out on your walk, or on your way to the store, or just watching the news, to look into the emptiness and marvel at all of that love.

Let it fill and sustain you. It isn't the end of the world. It is the most remarkable act of global solidarity we may ever witness.

Anonymous

If you have any concerns or questions - please don't hesitate to contact the College on 9487 3555 or stleos@dbb.catholic.edu.au

Best wishes



AF Gleeson
College Principal