



Letter No 16 - Covid-19 Update

17 September 2021

Dear St Leo's Community,

I wanted to take this opportunity to write and thank you for the tremendous amount of support you have shown towards one another during this long period of lockdown. It has tested all of us and brought to the fore the strength of the St Leo's community. In challenging circumstances we can often discover surprising things about ourselves and also take advantage of new opportunities for growth.

I thank everyone for the dedication that you have given to our Home Based Learning Model at St Leo's College throughout Term 3. We appreciate the wonderful work of our staff who have continued to teach every period online, to ensure structure, connection and explicit teaching opportunities for student engagement.

We have really appreciated the feedback in Term 3 that you have shared with our staff and via other communication channels. Please rest assured that we take all feedback seriously and have reflected thoughtfully on the current Online Learning Model, particularly regarding how we can further support the mental health and wellbeing of our students as *Home Based Learning* continues into Term 4.

I wish all of St Leo's community a very safe and happy holiday break. Some parents/carers will not be granted a break and I ask our young people to bear this in mind - and maybe turn that thought into actions! For those that do - I hope you enjoy this time of rest and rejuvenation and remember the many things we have to be grateful for and to look forward to. Keep looking out for each other and checking in on one another. This difficult time will pass. Stay mindful of good sleep, getting outside in the sunshine, and eating thoughtfully, because these things will help you thrive. I thank you for continuing to place your trust in St Leo's College and will see you all online with fresh energy and ideas in Term 4.

I will write to all members of our community next week to share the news of our **Student Leadership Team** for 2021/2022.



Timetable for Week 1, Term IV



Important: Student Timetable Changes for Term IV

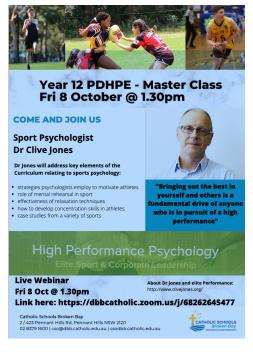
Due to Year 12 (2021) still under the care and tutelage of our our staff for the first 5 weeks of Term IV, some students will have different timetables from the start of Term IV. Please ensure you check your Compass timetable very carefully.

The classes affected are:

Year 9: 9_N, 9_L, 9_S
Year 8: all base classes

• Intake 2021: all base classes

Year 12 Update:



I would like to congratulate those who have received an early offer to a university this week. The past two years of schooling have been exceptionally challenging, and it is fantastic to see that over 35 students (so far) have been offered these valuable Early Entry university opportunities. Please continue to read your Google Classroom pages to stay informed about upcoming application deadlines, particularly those in September and October which include:



September

- UAC Early Bird applications – closes 30 September
 - The reopened Macquarie Leaders & Achievers Scheme closes

19 September

- The Schools Recommendation Scheme closes 19 September
- ACU (Australian Catholic University) Early Entry (Guarantee) closes 24 September
- SCU (Southern Cross University) 2022 STAR Early Offer program closes 30 September

October

 UNE (University of New England) Early Entry – closes 1 October and students get a guaranteed offer in November

Year 12 Motivational Seminars

- Be Inspired by Steve Solomon Wed 6 Oct, 1.30pm
- What HSC Markers are Looking For' Thu 7 Oct, 7pm
- High Performance Psychology Fri 8 Oct, 1.30pm (Students should see their Google Classrooms for links)

Please see the letter here sent out earlier this week to all Year 12 students, parents and carers.



Year 11 (2021) into Year 12 (2022) Subject Changes

Once students have completed their <u>Change of Subject forms</u> and parents have sent an email, the number of units and KLA Leaders approvals will be checked.

Students will then see their timetable changes on Compass. If students are changing classes (e.g. English Advanced to Standard) the new teachers will be informed and share necessary Google Classroom codes, etc.

Students have up until Week 5 of Term IV to make any change requests.

Please see the <u>letter sent to our Year 11 parents/carers earlier this week here.</u>

Year 10 and 11 (2021) Retreats in Term IV

The College has not yet been advised of Covid guidelines relating to outside school activities for next Term, but it is highly unlikely that these events will be able to go ahead as planned in Term 4. We are awaiting confirmation from Catholic Schools NSW before we are able to officially cancel our booking with the venue. Once we have this confirmation, we will notify you of this and the resulting changes to fees/accounts.

Reminder: College Photos

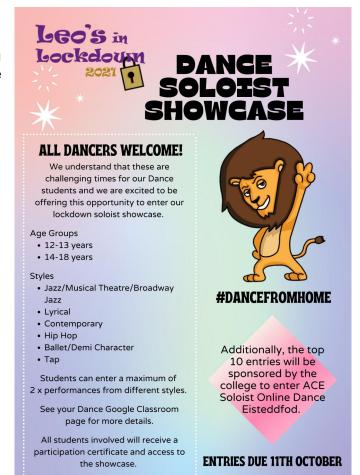
As advised earlier this Term, the offices of our photographers, MSP are currently closed due to lockdown orders and they are unable to complete our photo orders at this time. Once their office reopens, we will notify you as soon as we have word of when the photos should arrive.

Holiday Activities:

Leo's in Lockdown Dance Soloist Showcase

We are excited to offer the opportunity to enter our Leo's Lockdown Dance Soloist Showcase to our Dance elective and co-curricular students!

Students can enter a maximum of 2 x performances from different styles such as Jazz, Musical Theatre, Broadway Jazz, Lyrical, Contemporary, Hip Hop, Ballet, Demi Character or Tap.



All participants will receive a certificate and access to the showcase, while the top 10 entries will be sponsored by the College to enter ACE Soloist Online Dance Eisteddfod.

Entries are due Monday 11 October. Students are encouraged to check out their Dance Google classroom page for more information or <u>email Miss Skea</u>.



St Leo's Activities Challenge

We have extended the Leo's in Lockdown Activity Challenge for the school holidays - a set of fun challenges for all students to participate in from bottle flipping to cooking, juggling to paper aeroplane making.

The more activities they try, the more points their House will receive, and better chance they have of winning one of our participation prizes!

To begin the challenge, students can simply download the <u>Tally Sheet</u>. Instructions/details have been posted on their Google Classroom pages.

If any student would like to show us their efforts, please use this google form link.

Reminder: School Fee Assistance

Again a reminder that fee assistance is available to families who may need help with school fees. Contact the CSBB Fee Liaison Team via schoolfees@dbb.org.au or 9847 0728.



All College communications concerning Covid-19 (i.e. **Letters Nos 1-15**) are also listed on the <u>Remote Learning page of the College website for your reference.</u>

We are very conscious of the impact this lockdown will have on our staff, students and families. We are in regular contact with Catholic Schools NSW and will keep you updated as further information is available.

Thank you for your support of our school. Our prayers are with you and please stay safe!

Tony Gleeson Principal