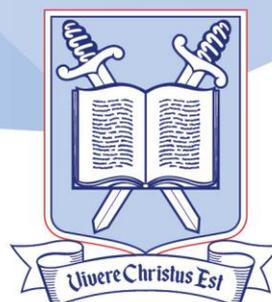


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St Paul's
Catholic College
Booragul

29 April 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

COVID – 19 Update No 21.

We are continuing to plan for the gradual reintroduction of students from week three. The Catholic Schools Office will be sending you a letter with some general information about the reintroduction and on Friday, I will be sending you the plan from the perspective of St Paul's.

The ground staff and cleaners have been doing an amazing job of cleaning and reinvigorating the garden spaces while the students have been away. The gardens have been cleaned up and trimmed back. Mulch has been applied and they look magnificent. The oval looks to be in the best condition that I have ever seen it. The recent rain and warm weather has certainly aided this. I wouldn't quite say that it looks like the Melbourne Cricket Ground on the morning of the Boxing Day Test, but it is close! The paved yard areas have been pressure cleaned for the first time since they were laid in the initial building of the college and it looks beautiful. The College is getting ready for the return of our students.

Zoe Braithwaite from Year 10 has sent in a beautiful reflection of our current situation. I commend it to you:

Life well and truly has come to a stop. Leaving many of us awake at late hours or has made our trackies become the new uniform. However, it's the uncertainty of the unknown that really has us all feeling restless. It is incredibly interesting to see that once our life is completely stripped back in a way, we notice these things perhaps we even forgot to be grateful for. Those tiny interactions we have with strangers or even friends. The stability of structure, being able to be told when to focus and do work, it's left many students and teachers even having to find motivation from themselves instead of deadlines. Although, is that such a bad thing?

The skill of self-motivation and self-discipline have been strengthened and challenged during these times. It's amazing to see how we as a college and as individuals have adapted, how we continue to learn through the strangest times, we learn how important those relationships with others are, and perhaps we all know how to use Compass a little bit more!

Although it sounds quite strange to say, perhaps the world needed this break. We as a nation, as a generation, have never seen times that weren't constantly advancing or changing. Many current events such as the Venice Canals having clear water and even seeing animals swim through the waters is just one example of how our constant human pleasing climate has, in a sense, had time to repair and recharge. We as a resilient community could call these times boring, alternatively we could take this opportunity to play a game of cards with our family or gaze at the stars in the autumn air from our backyards and windows. Help each other out, check up on your family and friends, let continue to live through our College Values.

Zoe Braithwaite.

Zoe has certainly given us a real insight to our world and COVID – 19.

Keep safe.

Go gently,



Graeme Selmes
Principal