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St Paul's
Catholic College
Booragul

7 May 2020

Dear Year 8,

Next week you will be returning to school for face to face lessons for one day per week for the next 3 weeks. Your teachers are very excited to have you back in class on those days.

Over the past four weeks of classes, you have been working remotely. You have engaged in online learning with your teachers and have been attempting to keep working using some very different skills and modes of learning. I congratulate each and every one of you for the way that you have worked with us to keep your learning happening during this difficult time. I also would like to thank your parents and caregivers for the wonderful way that they have supported your teachers and supported you in your online experiences.

Coming back to school will look a little different from when you were last here. We have been working very hard to ensure that we have set up systems and practises that will keep you safe and well once you return to St Paul's. The yard and classes have been thoroughly cleaned and prepared for your return. The Hall floor has been refurbished and looks amazing. The pavers in the yard have all been pressure washed and now look the same as when they were first laid 36 years ago. The gardens look terrific and the oval is green and inviting.

We have placed posters all around the school to remind you to be safe. Washing your hands and using sanitizer is so important. We have also set up markers outside the canteen so that you can practice social distancing techniques just like you would when you go to shops and cafés.

When you return to classes, we will be asking you to do some things differently. Here is a guide to what we need you to help us with.

1. When you are sitting with friends on the **seats and tables in the yard**, we ask that you keep a **good gap between you and your friends**. This will mean that less people can sit at any given table.
2. **When you arrive at the college each morning, refrain from physical greetings.** "Hands Off" will be the best approach. No handshakes, no embraces, no kiss on the cheek.
3. **When you line up for classes, keep a reasonable gap** between you and your classmates.
4. As you walk into class, **your teacher will spray some sanitizer on your hands**. We need to do that every lesson. Please allow this to happen quickly and without any fuss or silliness.
5. **At the end of each lesson, teachers will ask you to stand behind your desk and they will quickly spray some disinfectant on your desk.** You will be given a microfibre cloth to quickly wipe the desk and then you can leave the classroom.
6. **At the canteen, we will have two lines in operation.** Year 12 will line up at one and the other class in attendance will line up at the other window. We will have lines on the ground to help with social distancing. Depending on how many people intend to use the canteen, we may need to call students to the space in some sort of order to lessen any over-crowding.
7. **At the end of recess and lunch**, the ground staff will spray the outdoor furniture with disinfectant.
8. **Water fountains can be used to fill water bottles. The bubbler function will be taped off to prohibit use.**

9. **The cage and the basketball courts will be open for hand ball only.**
10. **The Oval can be used for kicking games. No contact style sports such as touch footy and soccer can be played.**
11. **You will use the main yard in front of the Damascus Centre during recess and lunch.** Year 12 will be in Holland Court. On Thursday, Year 11 will be here as well. Year 8 are asked to stay in the western half of the main yard on that day. **Keep in mind appropriate social distancing when you are sitting with friends.**

In order to meet physical activity outcomes, from Week 3 until further notice all PDHPE and PASS classes at school will be practical lessons. Students are asked to check Compass on the days they are to come to school and, if they have a face-to-face PDHPE or PASS lesson scheduled, wear your sport uniform. All games and activities offered will strictly adhere to social distancing protocols and appropriate hygiene processes will be followed. As students are engaging in the practical component of these courses at school, all theory work will be delivered in the online lessons.

Other practical classes (TAS etc) will also have some changed to normal practice. Your teachers will let you know the expectations.

You will be following your normal timetable for each day that you are here. Wednesday bell times will be used, so that a CARE period can be included for each year group as they return to school. Your CARE teachers will be working with you during CARE time. Year 12 will have recess when the other year has CARE group. Year 12 will then go to CARE group when the other year is at recess. CARE group time will be used to reconnect with peers, engage in a variety of activities and as an opportunity to provide relevant information for your HSC year.

No school assemblies or year meetings will be held as we need to ensure that we do not have large gatherings in confined spaces for your safety and the safety of our staff.

You will be expected to wear FULL winter uniform each day that you attend (unless you have PASS or PDHPE).

All other normal school rules apply including rules about the use of mobile phones.

I understand that there will be quite a few different practices that need to happen when you return. Life is different to what it was only a few months ago. We need to make sure that we are all working together to help keep everyone safe and well. We need to work together on the new responsibilities that we will have every lesson. It is vital that we do things that we are asked, so that we can successfully have schools working well in this COVID – 19 world in which we all now live.

On the days that you are not at school, you will continue to learn remotely. Keep working effectively. Keep making every opportunity the best learning opportunity it can be. Keep seeking feedback from your teachers. That way, when we do have the chance to come back full time, we will be in a good place to continue our learning.

When you are at school for the first time next week, we will be having a sausage sizzle for lunch (no cost). You should still bring some morning tea and the Canteen will also be open.

Remember it is Mothers' Day this weekend. Spoil mum. Give your grandmother a call and make it special for these very special people in our lives.

See you next week!

Cheers



Mr Selmes



Mrs Shipman



Mrs Carter