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St Paul's
Catholic College
Booragul

15 May 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Re: COVID – 19 Update No 31.

We have made it through Week One of the staggered return of students back to face to face learning. It has been a very successful week with our students clearly excited to be back at school with their friends. Social distancing protocols have been tested but is heartening to see that our kids are more than happy to comply with the new normal, such as having their hands sprayed with sanitizer as they come into class and cleaning of the desks at the end of each lesson.

Year 8 had a wonderful day here yesterday. I was able to get into a couple of the classes and it was so good to see them actively engaged in their activities. The Sausage Sizzles have been well received and the students were very grateful that the College took this small step to welcome them back.

Year 7 are here today and they have settled in well. Interestingly, out of all the year groups, they were the best at attempting to remember social distancing!

As we move into Week Two of the staged return, I remind parents to let the College know if you intend to send your child in on days that are different to their scheduled day. If you have already made that known to us, thank you. If you intend to make a change, please let us know. I would also remind you of the need to keep students at home if they display any signs of illness particularly any symptoms such as runny noses, sore throats, coughs or flu. Thus far our families have been wonderful in this regard and I thank you for supporting us so well.

For Year 12 students:

NESA has released the dates for the 2020 HSC Exams. The exam period was to begin on the 15th of October. The new start date is the 20th of October with the finish date moving to 11th of November. The timetable can be found at the following website:

<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/hsc/key-dates-exam-timetables/hsc-written-exam-timetable>

Schools around the state will be looking at the possibilities of how to support students in that extra week of preparation time.

A few weeks ago, I included a wonderful reflection from Zoe Brathwaite in Year 10. Zoe has sent in a further beautiful piece of writing about returning to school. I would like to share that with you today.

This week as our freshly cleaned uniforms were put into use after much anticipation, the slow progression into normality finally felt real. Our College was alive again, the playground filled with the sounds of long-awaited conversation and joyous laughter. The hallways were filled with organised chaos between lessons.

However, things were noticeably different, our hands were sprayed with sanitizer as we were welcomed into the new world, the new way of gatherings. Another new world, much like how so many students across the world welcomed the new way of online learning numerous weeks ago.

One day a week is the first step into our return to school education and it was a step students were certainly eager to take. As the staged return to fulltime in-class learning slowly but surely is paved out, we as a Catholic community will meet our new challenges not only with excitement but with precaution. We will be learning while participating in safe hygienic practises to accommodate to our new world, post isolation.

Have a wonderful weekend. Stay safe and enjoy the gathering new rules indicated by the government.

Go gently,



Mr Graeme Selmes
Principal