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St Paul's
Catholic College
Booragul

20 July 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Re: COVID – 19 Update No 36 – Term 3.

Firstly, welcome to the new Spring Term. Our staff are excited to have our students back for the term and look forward to one that has a more settle sense of normality.

In saying that, the current issues in Victoria and the smaller outbreaks of COVID in south west Sydney and the south coast of NSW reminds all of us that this virus will continue to be part of our lives until such times as a vaccine is discovered or by some other miracle, it dies a natural death! We continue to learn more and more about the effects of this disease and while it continues to be most troubling for our older population, it seems clear that the long term effects it can have on younger people is quite concerning.

As we begin the new term, I would like to reiterate the processes that we need to have in place at St Paul's to ensure that we continue to be a COVID safe work place for our students and staff.

We will continue to have our students sanitize their hands as they enter the classroom. We will continue to clean desks after each lesson. Our cleaning staff will continue to deep clean our rooms at the end of each day and our ground staff will continue to sanitize the yard furniture and lockers after each break.

For our staff, they will continue to socially distance from each other in the staff common areas and other areas of the campus. They will use techniques when offering feedback to students that keep in mind the social distancing protocols that have been suggested by the AHPPC (Australian Health Protection Principal Committee). We will not be gathering for major assemblies and award ceremonies and we will not be able to have face to face meetings with parents and caregivers. As well, all non-essential adults are still not able to come on site.

At times, it may be essential that parents are asked to come into the College for a meeting. If that is the case, we have set up processes that comply with COVID safe practices. This will include signing a Visitor Acknowledgement form at Reception. Our office staff will guide you through that process.

I would remind you, it is vital **that you keep your child at home if they are displaying the slightest respiratory illness.** Runny noses, cough and itchy throats in the past might have meant that a student could possibly be okay at school, but in these testing times, students will need to stay home. Please do not be offended if your child presents at school and has any of these sorts of symptoms and you are contacted to take them home. It is critical that we work together and be over cautious in these matters while the pandemic is still part of our lives.

We will be offering a modified sports program for Years 7-10 this term. There are still some strict conditions as to what we can offer off site and our Sports Coordinators have been seeking advice from the Catholic Schools Office as to what is possible. We will be ensuring that students who engage in any sport programs offsite will be using sanitizer provided by supervising teachers and that any venues we use have COVID Safe practices. More information will come over the next few days including the QKR booking information.

Our major challenge for the term is with our Year 12 cohort. This is their final term and it is clear that their final year experiences have been markedly different from previous years. In saying that, all Year 12 students in Australia are facing the same challenges to some degree. I suspect that the VCE students in Greater Melbourne and Victoria are in a much more challenging situation. The College Leadership Team is working hard to ensure that we celebrate with our Year 12 students and their parents appropriately and in keeping with the emerging health advice from the Government and the Catholic Schools Office. I suspect that what we do will be different. Whatever emerges will have the safety and wellbeing of our entire community as the basis of any decisions.

Our St Paul's Day celebrations were a great success. It was a different St Paul's Day, but it was clear that our community accepted the challenges and had a wonderful day. I would like to publicly thank Mrs Lucas and the Student Coordinators for their work to make the day so successful. As well, our Liturgical celebration was so meaningful and done very differently. Thank you to Mrs Pola-Kuras for her imaginative and thought-provoking presentation.

On Tuesday 28th July and Wednesday 29th July we will be hosting **online parent teacher interviews for Years 7-10**. Later this week we will be sending out booking instructions to parents and caregivers explaining how to book an interview via our online platform. This is a very different way of conducting Parent Teacher interviews. In saying that, a number of schools have done this and have reported great success. The interviews will be conducted after school on Tuesday and all-day Wednesday. This means that Wednesday 29th July will be a Pupil Free Day.

The scheduled St Paul's Athletics Carnival at Glendale that was to be held this Wednesday 22nd July has been cancelled and normal classes will be held. Lessons will follow the normal Wednesday timetable.

Thank you for continuing to support the College during these difficult times. We will continue to keep you updated as things change and develop. Our goal is to continue to offer a quality Catholic Education where our students engage fully in the learning opportunities that are provided each and every day.

Go gently,



Mr Graeme Selmes
Principal