



St Bede's College

15 May 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

May this email find you and the family well.

Happy Founder's Day to you. It is our hope that you have found the time to watch the wonderful Founder's Day Mass sent home earlier today in the video link.

Given below is some information around our students and their return to onsite learning.

Overview

The College is keenly aware of the absolute need to look after the health and wellbeing of students and staff. To that end, we will be implementing the directions of the Department of Education and Training (DET) and Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV), as advised to them by the Victorian Chief Health Officer.

Key Dates

The return to school timeline is based on the information from DET and the CECV. Term 2 key dates for the College are:

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 25 May | Staff Return (Student Free Day - no online classes) |
| Tuesday 26 May | Years 11 and 12 VCE and VCAL students return Any Year 10 student undertaking a Unit 1 subject (other than the compulsory Religious Education subject) will return onsite for that subject only Year 7-10 continue Offsite/Online learning |
| Monday 9 June | Year 7-10 students return |
| Friday 19 June | Staff Professional Learning Day for Assessment (student free day) |

NOTE: *The College will continue to offer supervision for those families who have sons in Years 7-10, where the student cannot learn remotely for the period from 26 May to 5 June.*

Students

Hygiene and Distancing

Based on the advice from the Chief Health Officer, students are not required to physically distance. The College will be putting hygiene practices into place for students, including a substantial number of hand sanitation stations throughout buildings, hand washing and staggered finish times and education signage and advice. There will be no assemblies or large, formal gatherings of students.

Students who are unwell should not be attending school. Given the current circumstances, you are asked err on the side of conservatism, should your son be unwell in any way.

Food & Water

There will be no canteen and all students must come to school with adequate food for the day. There will be no use of the usual water bubblers, however there will be refilling stations for water bottles, which must be brought to school.

Please see the full requirements for all students in the attachment below. These are being sent to all students. *If you have any queries about these arrangements, please contact Mr Jones in the first instance.*

Uniforms

The College is aware that some families have not been able to purchase the winter uniform. This is not an issue. Students are able to wear the summer uniform until such time as a purchase is made. The uniform Shop will re-open on Monday 25 May. ***Please see the College website for more details on in-store purchases and click-and-collect options.***

Staff

Based on the advice of the Chief Health Officer to all schools, our staff are required to exercise physical distancing. This also applies to any adult onsite. There will be numerous relocated staff work spaces and kitchen facilities along with virtual meetings. There will also be extensive social distancing signage around the campus, to maintain the 1.5 metre separation required. All staff will be supplied with a personal sanitation kit to be used throughout the day and re-stocked as needed. Staff are very aware of their obligations in regard to the above.

Two full time cleaners will also be onsite to continuously clean down surfaces and refill sanitation stations.

Family Phone Calls

We have now contacted the majority of our families. Thank you for the way that you have willingly shared your experiences of remote learning and social isolation with us. It has been a genuine privilege. We will continue to make phone calls until the end of next week (22 May). We apologise in advance for any family that we may miss due to our return to school. As always, if you have ANY concerns please contact us.

Different Habits

You would be aware that there has been an extensive amount of communication sent home over the past eight weeks in both written and video form. I am so pleased to be able to use this letter to advise of how our Community will begin to re-gather. These are small steps. We appreciate that our school's signage, sanitising, non-assemblies and adult social distancing will appear strange for a while. However, many of these aspects will be with all of us in society as we move through businesses and shopping areas. We will eventually be able to partake in most of the activities and traditions that we have come to know and treasure.

I wish to thank all families for their magnificent commitment to your son and the College. Every family will have dealt with social isolation in their own way. We offer our sincere thanks for your support of our Offsite/Online learning and have been grateful for the careful way you have read all correspondence or viewed video links. We know that we all need to continue to adapt to changes, some short term and others likely to be long term. We will do so together with a sense of *faith, service and community*.

My next communication will be by video link on **Friday 22 May**.

Per Vias Rectas

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Finn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mr John Finn
PRINCIPAL
Dip T | B Ed | B Sc | M Ed Studies | M Ed Leadership