



Marian College

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A Community growing in Faith and Love • Serving Others • Striving to Achieve • Thinking for the Future

17 March 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

I am writing to provide an update about our actions regarding COVID-19. The wellbeing of your daughter, our staff and our community continues to be of paramount importance to me, and takes priority in my decision-making in relation to all that is planned.

We would like to remind all families that if your daughter is unwell, for whatever reason, you are asked to keep her at home. Should there be any indication of a suspected case of COVID-19 at Marian College we will be in immediate contact with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and take advice. The advice could include a school closure with the duration determined by DHHS. Please note the following:

- Families and staff will be notified by SMS, SEQTA Direct Message and CareMonkey in the event of school closure.
- If it becomes necessary to close the College, teachers will communicate with their classes via digital platforms. The College is ensuring we are ready to ensure continuity of learning should it become necessary to close the school for any length of time.
- In relation to VCAA studies, especially around assessments, we will take advice from the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA).

As advised in an earlier letter students have been told to:

- Take all books/resources home and only bring the resources they need to school with them each day.
- Take their laptop home every day.

Information provided by the Victorian Government and by the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV) requires us to provide for the learning program in whatever means that are available. The College is well equipped to use our digital platforms and provide for online learning if necessary. However, as this may be a new area for students, staff and families to utilise effectively, we are providing other opportunities to further our communities understanding and use of these digital tools. Staff meetings have already been held to trial our resources. However, to ensure that we can continue to upskill our staff I have made the decision to announce a Staff Professional Learning Day for Friday 20 March 2020 and students will not be required to attend school. Whilst I understand that this is relatively short notice I believe that it is necessary to ensure that we are able to deliver on the Government and CECV expectations for continuity of learning. Please note that this is a Staff Professional Learning Day and not a school closure due to COVID-19. Therefore, I make the following points:

- **The College will hold a Staff Professional Learning Day on Friday 20 March 2020 and students will not be required to attend.** Staff will be onsite and enhancing the use of our digital platforms.
- The College will be open for students whose families are not able to arrange supervision and staff will be available to supervise students between the hours of 8.35am and 3.00pm. **Students who come to the school are required to come in school uniform and with their laptop.** If your daughter **will** require supervision at school on Friday 20 March, please advise the College on 9363 1711. Furthermore, the Canteen will **not** be open.

Finally, there may be some families who would like to take the decision to keep their daughters at home. This is, of course, up to your family. Absences related to self-isolation, as advised by the Health Department, will not contribute to a student's overall absence count. If your daughter is in a high-risk category, for example, auto-immune illnesses, I would strongly recommend that you seek advice from your doctor regarding self-isolation.

I am grateful for your continuing support and understanding during these unpredictable times. I will keep you abreast of any changes as circumstances unfold and once we receive updated advice from the CECV. Should you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Raymond Pisani
Principal