



15 November 2020

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Friends of our Marymede Community,

Our Year 12 students completed their formal Secondary education last Friday 30 October with their Graduation ceremony in the College's Fitness Centre. I trust that the students and parents who were able to watch the ceremony via live stream enjoyed this COVID-safe celebration.

The VCE Units 3&4 exams begin next Tuesday 10 November. This can be a difficult time for students and families, and I encourage parents to spoil their son/daughter with a favourite meal or simply let them know how proud you are of them.

State Government Grant: Performing Arts Building

I recently received an email from the Minister of Education Mr. James Merlino confirming that our grant application for \$3.45 million to build a Performing Arts facility has been approved by the State Government.

We hope to begin the project in Term 1 next year, with an expected completion date of January 2022.

This is fantastic news for our College, and I take this opportunity to thank the State Government for their financial support of Marymede Catholic College.

Years 10 & 11 Exams

The Year 11 students will begin their examination period on Monday 16 November and the Year 10 students on Wednesday 18 November. I urge our students to spend the lead-up time thoroughly reviewing, whether by going over notes, doing additional reading or attempting questions from past exam papers.

Setting Goals

With Year 12 classes over, some of our younger students are often tempted to think that the end is in sight and lose focus. Indeed, the opposite is the case and I encourage them to set some significant goals for the remainder of the term. These may include increased involvement in class discussions, completing unfinished work, a higher test result or a better assignment.

Maths at Marymede

Congratulations to our Primary Numeracy Coordinator, Mrs Linda Minahan and the staff who supported her with our Maths at Marymede Day on Wednesday 28 October. This week was a great way to draw attention to the importance of Numeracy for our young children.

Students Not Returning to Marymede in 2021

I ask parents to please let the College know as soon as possible if your son or daughter is not returning to Marymede next year. This information will assist us in planning staffing for 2021.

Student Grooming

Over my six years at the College, we have had a strong focus on students' wearing the Marymede uniform with pride and meeting the College's grooming expectations. I take this opportunity to thank the vast majority of parents once again for your support in the way the students have returned to school wearing their school uniform and being neatly groomed.

Mr. Michael Kenny
Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL STAFF AND OPERATIONS PREP – YEAR 12

Staying Safe & Healthy at School

The Victorian Department of Education & Training recently issued this tweet to remind us all – students, staff & families alike – of some basic reminders for staying safe and healthy at school:



Families are also reminded that students who are unwell in any way must stay at home and are advised to seek a COVID-19 test and clearance prior to resuming attendance at school.

Drop-off zones and traffic infringements

The Whittlesea council has received numerous complaints about Marymede parents illegally dropping off students in bus zones and other unmarked areas, along with blocking traffic flow on Williamsons Road & Vincent Drive. The council has already issued many fines to parents and will continue to issue more for those who fail to use the many marked areas for dropping students off.

Families are asked to please particularly note that the bus stops may not be legally used as a pick-up or drop-off zone. It is disappointing to hear from College staff that some parents being reminded of this have been rude to staff – particularly as this has occurred in front of students and other parents.

As indicated in newsletter earlier this year, it is a traffic offence for parents to block the road while waiting to enter the Marymede Carparks. Parents who block the roundabouts are also causing significant safety issues for access by emergency vehicles as well causing traffic congestion. It is illegal to enter a roundabout without clear passage to the other side (Road Rule 2139) and to be stopped in an intersection (Road Rule 0805); parents risk significant fines and demerit points should police patrol the area. Members of the public who contact the school regarding these issues have been encouraged to contact the Whittlesea Council and the Mill Park Police whenever the roads or roundabouts are blocked.

Parents are urged to time their pick-up of children to reflect the 3.15pm dismissal fine or face the possibility of police or Whittlesea council officers fining parents for illegally impeding a roadway.

Key Dates for end of 2020 & start of 2021

2020 dates

Wednesday 2 December	Final day for Year 10 & 11 students
Friday 4 December	Final day for Year 7 – 9 students
Friday 11 December	Final day for Prep – Year 6 students
Friday 18 December	College Office closes for 2020
Wednesday 30 December	Release of VCE, VCAL & ATAR results

2021 dates

Monday 18 January	College Office re-opens for 2021
Friday 29 January	First day for Year 7 & 12 (& Unit 3 Yr 11) students
Monday 1 February	First day of Year 1 & 2 testing
Tuesday 2 February	First day for Year 3 – 11 students
	All students in attendance

Restricted Entry & Procedures For Students On-campus

While we have celebrated the return of all of our students and certain restrictions across the state are easing, under the continuing advice of the Chief Health Officer, parents and community members are advised that entry and exit points to the campus continue to be limited as a further measure for protecting the health of our staff and students. This is likely to continue until at least the end of 2020.

All parent access to the campus remains restricted and all parent involvement with activities on-campus is cancelled for the foreseeable future. While the drop-off / pick-up zones will be open for limited times via Gates B, E & F, parents may not park on-campus nor exit their vehicle. We are grateful for the cooperation of parents and guardians in these procedures throughout most of 2020 and look forward to continuing to work together for the health and safety of all members of our community.

Similarly, while parents may also walk their child(ren) to the student pedestrian access gates you must farewell your child outside the gate and disperse quickly: only students may enter the property.

Mr David Broadbent
Deputy Principal Staff & Operations P-12

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL LEARNING AND TEACHING PREP – YEAR 12

Maths @ Marymede P-6

Last week students were treated to a Maths @ Marymede day with a range of engaging activities on offer as students recognise that Maths is everywhere not just in the classroom. The Maths Show incursion was enjoyed by all and Mr Kenny was a hit with a special guest appearance reading 'Uno's Garden' for the Preps. Each year level had a unique activity targeted to them and led to great discussion and engagement with a human number line, maths walk, cubetto coding and more. My thanks to Linda Minahan, Numeracy Coordinator and the Primary Core Teachers for their enthusiasm and support of students on the day.



- February Offer Rounds - Monday 1 February 2021 onwards

Mrs Jessica Hall
Deputy Principal Learning & Teaching P-12

DIRECTORS OF STUDENTS

2021 Planning

The impact of the lockdown on school children and how schools are working to support continuity of learning in spite of the lockdowns and periods of home learning in 2020 has been a hot topic in the media. As a College, we would like to take this opportunity to address this topic with our families and reassure you that we are working hard to maintain high standards of learning and provide continuity for our students as we plan for 2021. As a College, we have engaged with the research and tuned in to what the experts have said about how to support all members of our school community and especially our students.

During home learning, when our students were unable to participate in face to face teaching in the classroom, many positives came out of the very difficult and challenging circumstances we all found ourselves in. Throughout the periods of home learning, feedback from teachers was that the quality of work being submitted by students continued to be of a high standard. The support that parents and guardians provided to students was also of great benefit to our students' learning. Parents are the child's first teacher, after all, and this is true now more than ever. During this time, our teachers provided a quality educational experience through online platforms such as Zoom, SeeSaw, SIMON and email. They engaged in very rapid upskilling in a range of educational technologies. A high degree of collaborative effort brought Marymede's teaching teams together in new ways.

With the return to face-to-face teaching and in our planning for 2021, processes are in place to respond to gaps in learning that may have emerged due to home learning. Our Teaching and Learning team are driving our response to the impacts of the pandemic situation in the curriculum and part of this response will be handled through processes of differentiated teaching that are deeply embedded in the work of our teachers here at Marymede.

At the beginning of every year and indeed every topic, there is a lot of variation between individual students' prior knowledge and it is part of our teaching practice to conduct formative assessment so that teachers have an understanding of the starting points of each of our students and are able to design appropriate teaching and learning programs that are aligned with curriculum and responsive to students' learning needs. Through these processes, students will be supported to gain ground that may have been missed during the period of home learning. Teachers have already identified some areas that will need to be revisited more comprehensively in years ahead for each of their cohorts and this information will be communicated as teachers plan curriculum for 2021.

Much of the expert advice around responding to the pandemic in schooling indicates the prioritisation of wellbeing and we are working to emphasise this and promote it throughout our

Booklists

Based on parent feedback that was received we have changed our booklist provider this year and will be using Atlas Educational. There will be both a home delivery and in-store collection option. Booklists for 2021 will be published via PAM and further information sent home about the ordering process this week.

2021 Commencement Classes – Current Year 10 and 11

The 2021 curriculum begins for all VET/VCE/VCAL classes this year in the Commencement period, a compulsory requirement for all current Year 10 and 11 students, while classes continue for current Year 7 to 9 (2020). Year 11 and 12 (2021) VCE classes run from Monday 23 November to Wednesday 2 December 2020, VCAL orientation will occur until Thursday, 26 November. During this time students will begin learning new content and skills and discuss the expectations for the completion of holiday homework. This period – in addition to the work students will be required to complete prior to their return in 2021 – will ensure students are well prepared for the rigour of learning in year 11 and 12.

VCAA Unit 3 and 4 Written Examinations

With formal classes now concluded, Unit 3 and 4 teachers will still be available for revision right up until the scheduled subject exam. Revision classes can be run via Zoom or in the classroom and students should check with their individual teachers as to how it can work best for them, as we are hoping to minimise the number of students on campus. It was great to see the level of engagement in the trial exams and the feedback from these will assist both students and teachers in fine tuning the knowledge needed for exam success. The first exam for most students is English on Tuesday 10 November, although language oral and music performance examinations have commenced. All those involved should check their timetables and VCE Exam Navigator carefully, both of which were included in the mail package all Unit 3 and 4 students received recently.

Careers Update – Important Year 12 dates

Dates to Diarise:

- VTAC Personal Statement - Friday 4 December 2020
- ATARs Released - Wednesday 30 December 2020
- Change of Preference (COP) closes Monday 4 January 2021
- January Round International Offers - Thursday 7 January 2021
- January Round Domestic Offers - Thursday 14 January 2021

College community. Our team of Wellbeing, Psychology, Curriculum and Learning Enhancement leaders and specialists are all committed to supporting the work of teachers in targeting special needs or escalated needs in terms of both learning and wellbeing. These leaders, together with the Directors, are currently working closely with teachers to ensure that we are identifying students of concern and those who have been directly impacted by the pandemic and home learning situation whether that be in relation to engagement, wellbeing or teaching and learning. It is also important to note that we also draw on expertise from external agencies such as Austin School and the Department of Education's Respectful Relationships team to build the capacity of the College to meet these needs.

We are planning – and will continue to plan – responses on a case by case basis or, where the need is identified, we put structures in place across the board. We respond to or reach out to families and students of concern and offer appropriate supports. We will continue to review how well we are able to meet these demands and ensure that we develop the appropriate supports and resources in place to meet any increase should the need arise.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at the College if you have any questions or feedback about any points mentioned in this article or if your child requires wellbeing support.

Mrs Narelle Collins, Director of Students (P-4)

Mrs Melinda Muir, Director of Students (5-8)

Mr David Brick, Director of Students (9-12)

Year 12 Final Days

Year 12 is always a difficult year; however, the pandemic has added an extraordinary degree of complexity to the studies for 2020 Year 12 students. Despite this, the College has been impressed with the maturity, adaptability, flexibility and resilience demonstrated by these students to rise above the issues they have been confronted with on a daily basis.

The Year 12 year offers the promise of events that memories are made of: rites of passage that they have waited many years to experience. It was fortunate that the easing of restrictions allowed the Year 12s to graduate together as one cohort. More information and images about their final celebrations will be provided in the next newsletter.

Mr David Brick

Director of Students (9-12)

STUDENT WELLBEING

Marymede's playgrounds and classrooms have resumed full capacity and the energy and enthusiasm is evident. Friendships have been reunited and interactions with peers' face to face are a daily occurrence. This year has seen young people spend more time online than ever. This has helped maintain connections and allowed them to continue to work and play while learning remotely. However, it has highlighted the need to be aware of the increased risks of online activity.

Research from the eSafety commission explains that during school holidays online bullying reduces. However, once the

Term commences when students interact daily, online bullying may increase. Therefore, with all students back onsite it is important to be aware of your child's online activity and be watchful of any signs your child may be cyberbullied and what to do if this does occur.

Making mistakes is a part of life and learning however for our young people these mistakes can occur online with serious consequences. Marymede is here to support students and families when this occurs so that these incidents can inform positive online behaviour moving forward. Finding out your child is bullying others can be very painful, but you can help them to change, with your guidance and positive engagement.

eSafety provides some strategies to support your child

- **Talk to your child**, in a way they can relate to, about how it feels to be left out or teased. Use examples. Build empathy — what it might feel like to be the other person.
- **Encourage your child** to be honest about their behaviour, take responsibility for it and apologise to those they have bullied. Perhaps show them the page for kids How do I know if I'm being mean online? or for young people I've been called a bully.
- **Talk about accepting differences** and how to deal with people that annoy them. Give examples from your own life such as working with a difficult colleague.
- **Explain there will be consequences** for them if they treat others badly — for example, if they are rude they need to apologise and lose access to something they enjoy. Remember to also praise any change for the good so they start afresh.
- **Identify activities that make your child feel good about themselves** where they can be successful and have fun.
- **Praise your child's strengths** and any behaviour changes they try to make.
- **Practice treating others well at home** and let them know when they are being kind.
- **Spend one-on-one time with your child** such as watching a movie, playing sport together or cooking with them.
- **Talk to your child's school** about their academic achievement, learning style and abilities and whether they need additional support.
- **Work with the school** on ways to develop your child's social skills.

Online bullying can have a devastating impact on young people – especially as their online lives are a key part of their identity and how they interact socially. The eSafety commission is working very hard to support schools and families in this endeavour.

When are children ready for social media accounts?

Both the physical age of your child and their level of maturity and resilience can affect their ability to have positive experiences on social media.

Each social media site and app has its own criteria for minimum age requirements. Most require users to be at least 13 years of age before they can register, although some sites are created especially for children under 13.

Marymede encourage all families to be aware of the age restrictions for online apps your children have access to. As a College we do not endorse any students having access if under the recommended age.

Please access more information on the eSafety website via these links:

[esafety support for Parents & Students](#)

Key questions to help determine your child's readiness for social media

Please follow the below link to read about how to determine if your child is ready for social media.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/skills-advice/are-they-old-enough>

How to build digital intelligence

Please follow the below link to read about how to build digital intelligence in your child.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/skills-advice/good-habits-start-young>

Information about Age appropriate apps and online activities

Common Sense Media

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/app-reviews>

Additional Links

Susan McLean – Cyber Safety Solutions:

<https://www.cybersafetysolutions.com.au/>

Headspace -

<https://headspace.org.au/friends-and-family/what-is-bullying-in-children/?stage=Live>

Lisa Murray

Student Wellbeing P-6

SECONDARY NEWS

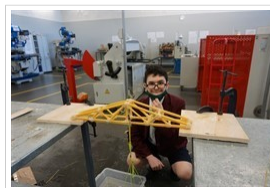
Year 9 Engineering Studies - Spaghetti Bridges

During remote learning this semester engineering students were presented with a challenging design brief. It was their task to design and construct a bridge entirely made from thin spaghetti noodles. Their bridge would be tested until total destruction on their very second day back at school on October 27.

The students design constraints and considerations stipulated that their bridge must span 500mm (50cm), kept under 500

grams and only 50mm (5cm) wide. The engineering students end results were extraordinary, and many bridges held 30+ times their own weight.

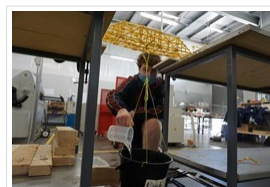
As an added incentive to the competition, Mr. Powter offered up two \$30 Westfield gift cards to the winners from each class. Congratulations to the winners who were:



*ENS09C Dylan Traficante 1st place
(Bridge 273 grams, failed at 9kg)*



*ENS09C Indira D'Sylva 2nd place
(Bridge 431 grams, failed at 13kg)*

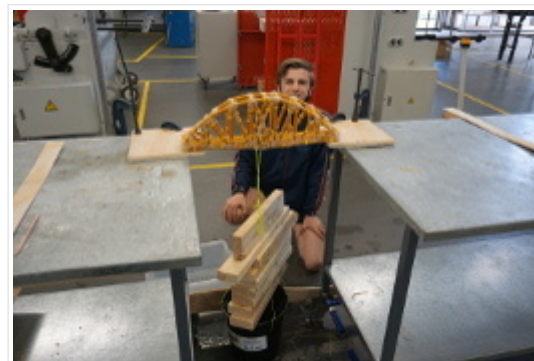
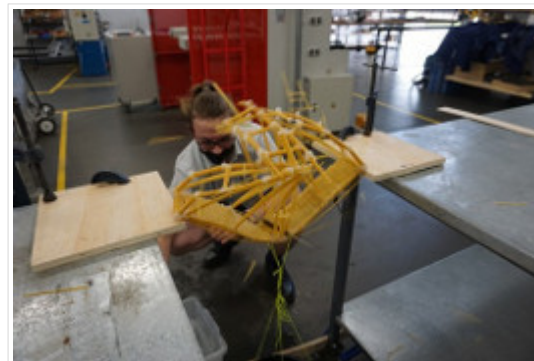


*ENS09D Jesse Benders 1st place
(Bridge 320grams, failed at 12.5kg)*



*ENS09D Eishman Brar 2nd place
(Bridge 300 grams, failed at 11.2kg)*

Action shots goes to:



Mr Aaron Powter
Engineering Studies Teacher

FINANCE OFFICE

Camps, Sports and Excursion Funding by Victorian State Government

The Department of Education has made changes to the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) to provide more support for families in need.

These changes include the extension of the deadline for CSEF applications to eligible students until Monday 5 October 2020. This will mean that families with **new** valid concession cards or temporary foster parents can apply for the CSEF. Payments to eligible students will be made at 50 percent of the annual student rate.

Therefore, if you have a valid concession cards or temporary foster parents and have not previously submitted this to the College earlier in 2020, please complete the attached form.

UNIFORM SHOP

<http://www.bobstewart.com.au/products/marymede-catholic-college>

MARYMEDE UNIFORM SHOP IS MOVING!



BOB STEWART IS OPENING IN UNI HILL!

Address: **Shop 25 / 5 Janefield Drive, Bundoora**

KEY DATES

WED 24TH SEPT - Web Orders available for postage
MON 19TH OCT - Web Orders available for Click n Collect
MON 26th OCT - **Uni Hill New Store Opens!**

STORE TRADING HOURS

MONDAY - THURSDAY 9 - 5
SATURDAY 9.30 - 12.30
Email: unihill@bobstewart.com.au
PH: 03 9086 7285

NOTE: All nominated dates are subject to government directives & restrictions