



26 August 2021

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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

All parents and carers would now be aware that the Government has extended the state-wide lockdown to 11:59pm on Thursday 2 September. This means that all our students will continue with their home learning program until at least this date.

The Premier, last Saturday 21 August in his media conference, also recommended that primary school aged children begin wearing a face mask.

I again assure parents that our staff are fully committed to delivering an engaging online learning program for their students, and are happy to respond (during business hours) to both students and parents who have concerns.

I encourage our students, if possible, to get outside at least once a day. I am a strong believer that fresh air can lift the spirits of everyone. I also recommend that our students reach out to their friends via Zoom, Skype, a text or even a phone call as I am aware they are missing that contact they have each day at school.

School Fees Update

The alternative methods of teaching and learning provided by our teachers in home schooling does not necessarily lead to a reduction in our costs, therefore our fees. Marymede relies heavily on school fees to supplement Government Grants. A significant proportion of our total revenue pool is allocated to staff salaries, with many other expenses being fixed or contracted prior to the beginning of the school year. We are currently reviewing all variable expenses with the aim of identifying possible savings which will enable the College to provide as much financial support as possible to those families impacted by this wave of COVID-19. I urge families concerned about meeting their payment commitments as a result of

COVID-19 to please contact fees@marymede.vic.edu.au in the first instance to discuss the options available.

The College must plan for a sustainable future, and we remain committed to supporting students, parents, and staff in these uncertain times.

Year 7 Enrolments 2023

We have again experienced very strong demand for Year 7 places from families in our local community. Even at this early stage, I am very confident that the College will reach its ceiling number of Year 7 enrolments prior to the conclusion of the 2021 school year. We look forward to interviewing prospective families next Monday 30 August from 4:00pm – 8:00pm.

Staffing Update

Last Friday, we farewelled our Years 5-8 Director of Students Laura Gazeas as she takes leave to prepare for the upcoming birth of her third child. I take this opportunity to thank Laura for the work she has done to support both the staff, students & parents in these year levels throughout this year.

We have appointed Lisa Murray as the Years 5-6 Director of Students and Jack Mather as the Years 7-8 Director of Students for the remainder of this year. Jay Russell will take over as the Chisholm House Coordinator. I congratulate them on their appointments and wish them every happiness and success in their new roles.

Father's Day – 5 September

I wish all our dads a Happy Father's Day on Sunday week, 5 September. It is disappointing that as a result of COVID restrictions our traditional Prep Father's Day Assembly will not be able to take place. I hope that all our Dads are made a fuss of by their immediate family members on this very special day.

RIP +

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Gleeson family on the recent passing of our highly respected former colleague, Jack who was head of the College's Maintenance Team for 15 years.

Eternal rest grant upon him, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him.
May the souls of all the faithful departed
Through the mercy of God,
rest in peace
Amen

Mr. Michael Kenny
Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL STAFF AND OPERATIONS PREP – YEAR 12

Major Events postponed

Due to the current lockdown, a number of College events have had to be postponed, including the following:

- Book Week Parade
- First Eucharist
- Confirmation
- Marymede Day
- Year 10 Camp
- Year 6 Camp
- Co-curricular photos day
- Junior Production: Moana Jr

Each of these will now take place in Term 4. The exact dates and times for the re-scheduled events will be communicated with parents once the dates are finalised. Possible parent and family attendance at events will not be known until the week prior to each event, so we ask for your continuing patience as we navigate the ever-changing restriction levels to ensure the safety of our community.

While COVID restrictions have resulted in some events being cancelled and many postponed, we maintain of faith and hope and take solace that “Not everything is cancelled”:



COVIDsafe measures during lockdown (to 2 September)

While the current lockdown continues, we hope to welcome back all our students and staff as soon as the government's health orders allow (currently Friday 3 September).

In accordance with the latest School Operations Guide (released 23 August), the following measures are in place to protect our College and Community:

- No visitors are permitted to access the property (this includes parents and carers).
- The vast majority of students will conduct their learning from home.
 - Only those students for whom all adults in the home have a valid Authorised Worker Permit and no adult supervision is available at home or who have a diagnosed disability may apply for on-campus supervision of their remote learning. Eligible students must be registered online; please email all Authorised Worker Permits to nicole.lawrenson@marymede.vic.edu.au to obtain the online registration link.
 - Year 4 – 12 students who may need to access their locker or classroom for learning materials must go to Main Reception. Parents may not enter the property to collect materials.
 - Please note that it is a breach of government regulations to have your child supervised at someone else's home: please contact the College (even at very short notice) if all Authorised Workers are required to be onsite or an emergency arises to cause the need for supervision of your child(ren).
- All staff and secondary school students permitted for on-campus remote learning must wear a face mask at all times (unless they have a lawful exemption). All primary students are highly recommended to also be wearing a face mask. Masks may only be removed to eat or drink.
- Any permitted visitors who enter a building must register at Main Reception or Finance using the QR code. A COVID-Check-in Marshall is required to verify the completion of the QR-code check-in.
- All visitors (including parents) who are permitted onsite must wear a face mask at all times (unless they have a lawful exemption).
- All students using public transport are required to check-in using the QR code; all Secondary school students are also required to wear a face mask when using any school bus or public transport.
- A density limit of 1 person per 4m² will be observed in all areas accessed by permitted visitors.
- Parents and carers are reminded to maintain 1.5m social distancing at all times.

We encourage all community who are eligible to receive one of the available COVID-19 vaccines to join the many staff and parents who have already received their vaccination. In a pleasing announcement from the Premier (25 August) the eligibility has been extended down to those 16 years and above, so many senior students are also able to choose to book in for a vaccine from 25 August onwards. Comprehensive information on the COVID-19 vaccines is



available from both the Australian Government and Victorian government websites.

To keep up to date with the changing COVID situation and latest government regulations, please visit:

- www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/exposure-sites
- www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/face-masks

Once we return and are permitted to hold excursions, all permission forms are now required to provide an individual phone for each student as excursion venues are required to collect contact details and are responsible for managing record keeping for contact-tracing in line with current public health directives. A school phone number alone is not considered sufficient for this purpose. Providing contact details for individual students will expedite contact tracing so that individuals can be contacted by the Department of Health if required. Parents and carers are advised that, when required, the school will be providing excursion venues with contact details for students. If a number is not provided on the Operoo form, the primary contact phone number on school file for the student will be provided as the nominated contact number. Venues will be collecting student names and contact phone numbers for a legitimate purpose and are subject to Victorian privacy laws so will handle the information securely and only retain it for the required 28-day period.

We thank parents and carers for your continuing support and understanding of the measures taken to protect all community members.

Early dismissal 16 September at 1.00pm

The final day for Term 3 is Thursday 16 September. In order to accommodate the Parent-Teacher interviews on this day, students will be dismissed at 1.00pm. Parents & carers requiring student supervision after this time will need to contact Camp Australia to book in your child.

Trouble receiving Marymede emails?

We have received a number of calls from families saying they have not received email communication. Upon investigation from our ICT Helpdesk, we can see that each email was sent to the preferred email address for each of the families in question but has not arrived in their email inboxes. The majority of these email addresses have been Gmail and Hotmail.

Marymede is unable to fix this issue from our end, as this is a known spam / junk filtering issue for Gmail and Hotmail that is sending Marymede communication to your Junk or Spam folder. The only solution available requires action from parents to “whitelist” the following Marymede email addresses:

- registrar@marymede.vic.edu.au
- principal@marymede.vic.edu.au
- news@marymede.vic.edu.au
- helpdesk@marymede.vic.edu.au
- transition@marymede.vic.edu.au
- nicole.lawrenson@marymede.vic.edu.au
- carolyn.key@marymede.vic.edu.au

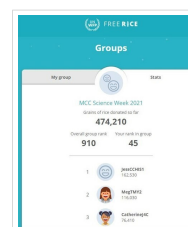
In order to assist families with a Gmail or Hotmail address, we ask you to please “Whitelist” the Marymede email addresses listed above by following the instructions below for your Hotmail or Gmail account:

Mr David Broadbent
Deputy Principal Staff & Operations P-12

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL LEARNING AND TEACHING PREP – YEAR 12

Science Week

Last week was a wonderful celebration of all things science with the College running a virtual Science Week. Students across P-12 engaged in a range of science themed activities and shared these with their teachers. My thanks to Julie Plymin, Science Domain Leader and her team for providing such a variety of engaging experiments and activities and my thanks to parents and students for giving them a go.



History Competition

The Australian History Competition focuses on testing student’s interpretation, analysis and historical understanding. We had several Year 8 students participate this year and I would like to congratulate the following award recipients:

High Distinction	Distinction	Credit	Merit
Arshdeep Singh	Emily Williamson	Arpitha Nair	Alicia Reidy
Pranav Khullar	Jyothis Joshy	Boyan Poposki	Yadeesha Gunawardana
		Erica Connell	Anna-Simone Henry
		Isabella Brice	Ashleigh Popovski
		Michaela Mponda	Emily Barrow
		Milla Tasevski	Kayla Marychurch
		Ryan Shorey	Khalid Alashi
		Sofia Overmars	Laura Rambaldi
		Yadeesh Gunawardana	

Mid-Semester Reports and Parent Teacher Interview (P-10)

The mid-semester reports are an opportunity for teachers to reflect on the learning dispositions and work habits of each student. A follow up conversation is also offered at Parent Teacher interviews, and these will be occurring on Tuesday 14 September 14 (4pm-7pm) and Thursday 16 September (2pm – 7pm) for all students in Prep – Year 10. The mid-semester

reports and parent teacher bookings will be online from 9.00am on Wednesday 8 September and will be accessible via Parent Access Module (PAM).

Mrs Jessica Hall
Deputy Principal Learning & Teaching P-12

STUDENT WELLBEING P-6

Riding the COVID Waves

As we progress through this latest lockdown and the challenges that come with it, we are being asked to once again support our families, friends and community. Our resolve to meet these challenges has been depleted over the last 18 months. Parenting expert Michael Grose has acknowledged us that there “is no magic bullet that will make living through these uncertain time”; however, he has provided some excellent tips to help us all be kind to ourselves and what to prioritise and what to let go!

Topics include:

- **Model a coping mindset:** the hardest and most important strategy
- **Act like a middle born:** Be flexible and reduce expectations
- **Embed wellbeing strategies into family life:** Daily exercise and good sleep routines
- **Only sweat the big stuff:** If there is conflict, reduce academic expectations.
- **Connect with your village:** Extrovert or Introvert – what they each need in lockdown?

The Five Finger strategy is also helpful. Five actions that can support everyone

- **Physical Wellbeing– move throughout the day**
- **Emotional Wellbeing – mindfulness activities, meditation**
- **Kindness- to yourself or someone else**
- **Creative – tap into an enjoyable activity**
- **Challenge – it may be a small challenge, get dressed each morning**

Some Extra Wellbeing Resources to access

- The Virtual Calming Room is a place for students and families to find tools and strategies for managing emotions and feelings Access relaxing sounds & music, guided meditations, visual relaxation, mindfulness, live animal Cameras via the Virtual Calming Room
- Reach Out provides advice and support in regard to motivating your teenager when school is the last thing on your mind. Reach Out
- Beyond Blue : How to support you and your child’s wellbeing Beyond Blue Youth
- The Orange Door is a free service for adults, children and your people who are experiencing or have experienced family violence and families who need

extra support with the care of children.
www.orangedoor.vic.gov.au

- Marymede’s own Student Services Team are here to support you and your please contact them on counselling@marymede.vic.edu.au or call the school directly for support.

If you are struggling to get the balance right with your child, please contact the relevant teacher. We have a range of support structures in place and recognise how difficult this is for all members of our community.

Lisa Murray
Student Wellbeing P-6

CO-CURRICULAR

Co-Curricular Overview

With the extension of home learning, we are pleased to once again offer our Co-Curriculum @ Home program to all students. We have been so impressed with the level of creativity and enthusiasm shown by students participating. We encourage all students to have a look through the document and find at least one activity that interests them. This program has been designed to offer a productive outlet for students when they are not studying, with options to encourage outdoor activity, creativity and connection with their households. If you have any great ideas for future challenges or activities, please email Melanie.Wason@marymede.vic.edu.au

Co-Curricular House Shield Leader board

This week’s edition of CC@Home includes a House Movement Challenge! Students and teachers are encouraged to sign up through the Strava mobile app and log their physical activity throughout the week to earn house points. The house with the highest stats at the end of the week will receive an additional 50 points, so get involved and get moving! Students who are under 13 and/or do not have access to the Strava app are still encouraged to participate by sending a screenshot of their daily activity using a different app, or by writing down their daily activity (e.g. Bike Ride, 30 mins) and have it verified and signed off by a parent.

HOUSE SHIELD LEADERBOARD UPDATE (23/08/2021)



PRIMARY		SECONDARY	
1st	ROMERO	1st	MCAULEY
2nd	CHISHOLM	2nd	CHANEL
3rd	MCAULEY	3rd	MARCELLIN
4th	CHANEL	4th	ROMERO
5th	MCCORMACK	5th	CHISHOLM
6th	MARCELLIN	6th	MCCORMACK

Well done to Romero (Primary) and McAuley (Secondary) who are still leading the Co-Curricular House Shield Competition.

If you would like more information on any of our co-curricular activities please contact
Melanie.Wason@marymede.vic.edu.au

Melanie Wason
Co-Curricular Assistant

P&F Father's Day Stall

Father's Day Stall

It is with great sadness the P&F will not be holding the Father's Day Stall this year, due to COVID-19 Lockdown. We were all prepared and ready to go when we were plunged into an extended lockdown. The P&F Committee would like to wish all our dads, granddads and carers a very happy Father's Day, we hope your families spoil you and you enjoy your day. Take care everyone.

P&F Committee