



3 February 2022

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers

Thank you

I wish all students, parents, guardians, carers and community members a warm welcome to the 2022 school year.

As I expressed in my email to parents last week, I am really excited about joining Marymede Catholic College as Principal.

Thank you to staff, parents and students who have made me feel so welcome in my first few weeks at the College. It is really appreciated!

I look forward to getting to know the community, come to understand the school and collaboratively lead the College on the next steps of its journey.

I will be offering the College a strong commitment to student learning and growth across all areas: faith, academic, wellbeing and physical development.

In my next newsletter article, I will share with you some details about how I would like to engage the College community in dialogue regarding the key directions for the College in the coming years.

We pray.....

Loving God,

We give thanks for the gifts and talents of all Marymede Catholic College community members.

May we be inspired by your Word to offer joy, peace, hope and love to all of those around us.

We pray that our students are inspired by the many opportunities which 2022 will offer them.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Welcome

I extend a warm welcome to the following staff members who have joined the College this year.

- **Carl Adams** – Year 5 Teacher
- **Anna Arvanitis** – Secondary Art and Religious Education Teacher
- **Jason Austin** – VET Building and Construction Teacher
- **Meaghan Bennet** – Learning Support Officer
- **Daniela Calabro** – Learning Support Officer
- **Thomas Clayton** – Secondary English Teacher
- **Bianca Cooper** – Year 5 Teacher
- **Teresa Di Giulio** – Italian Language Assistant
- **Nuwin Fernando** – Youth Minister
- **Samantha Ferraro** – Secondary Maths and Religious Education Teacher
- **Sonia Finlayson** – Secondary Media Teacher
- **Renee Fitzgerald** – Secondary Sports Assistant
- **Chelsea Ford** – Year 6 Teacher
- **Lauren Ford** – Secondary Maths and Science Teacher
- **Adelina Gaudio** – Learning Support Officer
- **Jason Gilchrist** – Visual Arts Domain Leader
- **Annemarie Gullaci** – Secondary English and Humanities Teacher
- **Emily Hawke** – Year 4 Teacher
- **Xavier Lane** – Secondary Maths and Science Teacher
- **Marissa Marino** – Prep to Year 5 Italian Teacher
- **Cameron McPhail** – Secondary Maths and VCAL Teacher
- **Carly O’Neal-Shipley** – Primary Student Wellbeing Coordinator

- **Amelia Rambaldi** – Year 4 Teacher
- **Ben Stennett** – Secondary Computing and Humanities Teacher
- **Kimberley Suta** – Secondary English and Religious Education Teacher
- **Nathan Thompson** – Secondary Health and Physical Education Teacher
- **Emilly Turner** – Secondary English and Religious Education Teacher
- **Madison Young** – Secondary Health & Physical Education and Maths Teacher

- **Director of Students – Prep to Year 3:** Narelle Collins
- **Director of Students – Year 4 to Year 6:** Lisa Murray
- **Director of Students – Year 7 to Year 9:** Jack Mather
- **Director of Students – Year 10 to Year 12:** David Brick

Start of the school year

It has been fantastic to have the students begin on campus over the course of this week. I have enjoyed the opportunity to speak to some year levels at online assemblies, greet other students at the gates in the mornings and afternoons and, importantly, observe classes to witness students engaged in their learning.

The College is enacting its responsibility to create as safe a learning environment as possible within the current COVID context. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions please make contact.

Theme

Our College Theme for 2022 is *Known and Loved – dignity for all*. This theme is inspired by Matthew's Gospel (7:12) *In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you*, and offers us a wonderful lens in which to express our Catholic Identity. Central to our educational purpose is to ensure that all students know that they are welcome and belong here and that we will meet each student where they are at and suitably support and challenge them. This relates closely to this year's theme. Thank you to Mary Selar who has offered a reflection on the College theme later in this newsletter and I look forward to sharing further reflections on this theme during the year.

Communication

I will be sharing with parents via email next week a list of contact details for staff who parents may be best to contact to address particular matters. In most cases the Core Teacher in the primary school and the Pastoral Teacher in the secondary school are the best first point of call.

College Leadership Team

Thank you to the College Leadership Team who are joining me this year to lead the College in the pursuit of student learning and growth. The College Leadership Team for 2022 is:

- **Principal:** Timothy Newcomb
- **Deputy Principal – Wellbeing and Operations P-12:** David Broadbent
- **Deputy Principal – Learning and Teaching P-12:** Jessica Hall
- **Business Manager:** Paul Romanin

Strategic Directions 2022

I would like to share with you a summary of some of the strategic directions and projects the College will be working on throughout 2022. I look forward to sharing with you updates on these directions and projects throughout the course of the year.

Catholic identity

- Realising the College theme
- Recontextualising our Catholic Identity
- Development of our association with Marist Schools Australia
- Staff formation and accreditation

Learning and teaching

- Development of the College Learning Charter
- Formative assessment
- Continuous reporting
- Inquiry Program for Prep to Year 6
- Kindergarten Learning Program initiatives

Wellbeing

- Positive Behaviour for Learning
- Implementation of the Wellbeing Program
- Reconnection of students and the College community in response to the COVID context
- Respectful Relationships Program
- Student voice and leadership
- Child Safety and duty of care

Leadership and Resources

- Facilities development
 - Completion of Performing Arts Building
 - Building of General-Purpose Classroom facility
 - Construction of western road
 - Building of Doreen Campus Early Learning Centre
 - Planning for the Doreen Campus Junior A Building
 - Planning for further stages of the Doreen Campus
 - Masterplan development for the South Morang Campus
- Community engagement
 - Connections with alumni
 - Parent engagement initiatives
 - Further development of College online platforms
 - Development of a new College website
 - Use of video and social media
- Doreen Campus implementation planning

- Leadership
 - Staff leadership and culture development
 - Compliance review

Best wishes to all students for a positive fortnight ahead as they move forward with their learning programs!

Sincerely

Mr. Timothy Newcomb
Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL WELLBEING AND OPERATIONS PREP – YEAR 12

Welcome to 2022

I extend a warm welcome to all families new to our Marymede community and a grateful 'Welcome back' to all returning families. We hope that families had a relaxing and enjoyable break together but are also mindful of the many families whose break was adversely affected by COVID cases in their home or family. We pray that all COVID-affected members of our community have recovered or will quickly recover.

While infections are widespread at present, it's pleasing to see both the rapid uptake of vaccination available to students aged 5 – 11 years old and the recent approval of booster shots for 16 – 17 year olds. The current COVID climate will see 2022 start differently to previous school years but with COVIDsafe measures familiar across 2020-2021. COVIDsafe requirements set by the Victorian Government and the CECV School Operations Guide that will govern the school to Friday 25 February are outlined below.

For all College events this year, parents and guardians are encouraged to regularly access the College calendar either via our website below or via PAM. Both of these calendars are kept up-to-date to reflect where events are required to be postponed or move to a virtual format. The restrictions up to 25 February have already resulted in the postponement of events such as our Opening School Mass, the PFC Colour Run, and forced all assemblies and staff meetings back into virtual mode.

<http://www.marymede.vic.edu.au/news/schoolcalendar>

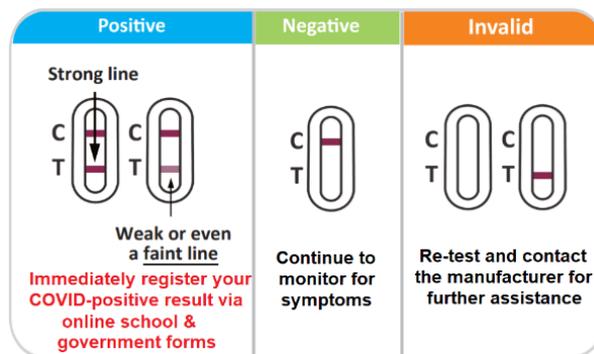
COVID-Safe for 2022

As we continue to learn to live with COVID-19, the following measures are in place up to 25 February to ensure our College remains a safe environment for our students and staff:

Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) 'surveillance' testing: Each family has been supplied a 5-pack of RAT home-tests to be conducted on two school days each week across 1 – 11 February (an additional 5-pack will be distributed to cover 14 – 25 February). These should be used on two school days in each week, regardless of whether or not your child shows any COVID symptoms or may have been in contact with a positive case. If your child receives a positive RAT test result at any time, a parent or guardian must register this result through the Department of Health system via COVID-19 Positive Rapid Antigen Test Self-Reporting Form or 1800 675 398 (please also see the next point for informing the college).

There is no requirement to report a negative result.

N.B. Students who have previously tested positive for COVID-19, have completed their 7-day isolation period and are subsequently asymptomatic do not need to undertake RAT surveillance testing for 30 days (from their positive test or onset of symptoms, whichever is earlier).



Reporting positive COVID results: Should any student receive a positive RAT or PCR result, a parent or guardian must report this result to the College via the Marymede Positive COVID Result Notification Form .

The College will notify the school community through a daily email when a student or staff member has returned a positive COVID-19 result and had attended the College. This email will identify any classes affected and advise students to undertake a RAT and only return to school if they receive a negative result and are asymptomatic. Classes will generally not be sent home during the school day. Remote learning will only be considered as a localised, short-term, last-resort option.

Students who are unwell must stay home: The most important action school communities can take to reduce the risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19), is to ensure that any unwell staff and students remain at home and get tested, even with the mildest of symptoms. Parents/carers should also consider getting a medical certificate from the child's treating GP to confirm that it is safe for them to attend school with persistent symptoms that may overlap with some of the symptoms of COVID-19 such as cough or runny nose (e.g. for students who suffer from hay fever).

Face Masks & Physical distancing: As per the directions of the Victorian Government, the following actions are mandatory:

- All staff, all adults and all students in Years 3 – 12 are required to wear a face mask indoors at all times.
- Prep – Year 2 students are also strongly encouraged to wear a face mask when indoors.
- Parents and carers conducting drop-off and pick-up who are unable to maintain social distance should also wear a face covering.
- Face masks to be worn by individuals over the age of 8 when on public transport and school buses – unless you have a lawful exemption.
- Individuals over the age of 8 must carry a face mask at all times.

Limited parent entry to campus: All parent & guardian access to the campus is restricted and all parent involvement with activities on-campus is restricted for the foreseeable future. It

is therefore very important for parents to clearly communicate with your child exactly where they should meet you for either vehicle or pedestrian pick-up. Pedestrian Gate 3 (near the bus stop) provides the clearest line of sight for younger primary students needing to locate a parent for pedestrian pick-up. Parents of Prep and Year 1 students have been directly emailed the instructions for their 'soft start' pick-up and drop-off procedures.

QR code registration & vaccination requirement for on-campus entry: Where parents and visitors are granted permission to enter the school property (apart from very brief outdoor pickup / drop-off), this is conditional on acceptable proof of being fully vaccinated after completing QR code registration.

Limited car-parking on-campus: The Gate A car park will be open to enable Prep parents (only) to park for Prep drop-off and pick-up. All other parents will need to park off-site.

Vaccinations: COVID-19 vaccinations for students are not required for them to attend school but vaccination for eligible students is highly encouraged. For more information on how to book a vaccination, including important information about vaccination for children aged 5 to 11, visit the Vaccination information for children and teenagers page on the [coronavirus.vic.gov.au](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au) website.

Additional COVIDsafe measures were also outlined in the Principal's letter emailed to families on Friday 28 January.

We thank all parents and carers and students for your patience, understanding and cooperation in assisting to keep our community safe.



Student Absences & late arrival / early departure

Parents and students are reminded that secondary students should not be on the campus prior to 8.00am and primary students should not be on-campus prior to 8.20am. Please contact Camp Australia should you child require care before 8.20am (or after 3.35pm).

When your child is going to be absent from school, is arriving late or leaving early, parents/guardians are reminded of the following process:

- Email absentees@marymede.vic.edu.au with your child's name, date of absence and the reason for the absence. You can also telephone the absentee line on 9407 9090 and leave a clear voicemail with your child's full name, year level and House, together with the reason for the absence. If you are having difficulties leaving a message on the absentee line and are unable to email, please contact Main Reception on 9407 9000.
- Students who arrive after 8.45am are required to go to main reception (opposite the train station) to sign in. Younger Primary students will be escorted by a staff member to their classroom.

- If your child is leaving school early, parents/guardians are to write an explanatory note and your child will be required to obtain an early leave pass from their Secondary Pastoral Teacher or Primary Core Teacher. When departing, the student will need to report to main reception to sign-out, again showing the note along with the Early Leave Pass.

Please ensure that communication of your child's absence/late arrival is sent no later than 9.30am on the day of the absence/late arrival. If you do not communicate your child's absence/late arrival by 9.30am and your child does not sign in upon late arrival you will receive an SMS message advising that your child is absent and requesting that you contact the College to confirm the absence/late arrival.

Carpark etiquette

As we begin a new year and many return to dropping off and picking up students via the College carparks it is worth revisiting some reminders to ensure the safest use of the College carparks and drop-off zones. We appreciate the frustration of slow-moving traffic and ask parents to focus on the safety of our students, some of whom are too young to have fully developed road sense. For the safety of our staff and students, parents are reminded to please be conscious of the following whenever driving through the College for morning drop-off or afternoon pickup (particularly in the Secondary carpark):

- Respect directions of staff on duty
- Obey 10km/h limits
- Drive only in directions indicated on road and respect indicators of single lane traffic areas



- Only allow your child(ren) to exit or enter the car at marked drop-off bays or while in a marked parking bay
- Do not stop across or block pedestrian crossings



- There is no onsite parking at present: do not exit your vehicle
- Do not use areas marked for staff parking: while they may appear vacant, staff do return from meetings and off-campus professional learning and there are part-time staff who arrive at various times during the day



The City of Whittlesea has also requested that all parents read the following pamphlets on parking and safety around schools and to apply to become a School Crossing Supervisor:

Photo Day: Monday 21 February

A reminder to current Marymede families that school photos are scheduled to take place during the school day on Monday 21 February 2022 with sibling photos taking place from 3.30 – 7.00pm. The College will use the services of National Photography who offer value packages and simplified ordering processes for our families. Students will be provided with personalised order forms including ordering and package details in the coming weeks.

Families wishing to arrange sibling photos will need to book your sibling photo session via instructions that will be emailed to families shortly. Please note that Sibling Photo bookings will close by Friday 18 February. Ordering instructions for sibling photos will be provided at the photo session.

Uniform expectations for all students are per the grooming standards in our Student Planner and as provided in the Principal's letter of 28 January, with all students expected to wear their full Summer Uniform (no P.E uniform allowed). Students in Years 7-12 will be required to wear their College Blazer. Any student who is determined by College staff to not meet the uniform and grooming requirements will not have their photo taken on 21 February and will not be included in class / year level photographs. A 'catch-up' day on Thursday 17 March will provide the opportunity for individual photos for students who are either absent or fail to meet the uniform and grooming requirements on 21 February.

Photos taken on the day will be used by the College for Student ID Cards and the College Yearbook, along with special year level related folios such as our Year 12 Graduation Folio.



David Broadbent
Deputy Principal Wellbeing & Operations P-12

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL LEARNING AND TEACHING PREP – YEAR 12

Welcome back

The start of the school year is upon again after what always feels like a very fast summer break. I hope all members of our community were able to enjoy some quality time together and there is an excitement in your household for school to begin again. After a couple of challenging years, I'm sure I'm not alone in hoping that 2022 is far more predictable in nature and we are able to find more opportunities to gather and celebrate the innovative learning occurring daily across Prep – Year 12.

Parent Access Module

The Parent Access Module (PAM) provides you with information on a range of areas relating to your child's education, including timetables, homework and assessment tasks (Secondary school), school reports, attendance, Parent Teacher Student Interviews, College daily messages and upcoming events. I encourage you to login regularly to keep up to date with College information.

2021 VCE Results and Student Pathways

I would like to acknowledge the fine efforts of our young men and women in the most challenging of years and extend my sincere thanks to the wonderful teaching and non-teaching staff that supported the cohort over their many years of education at the College. The cohort results were outstanding, and it was pleasing to see that over 85% of our students received their 1st or 2nd tertiary preference during first round January offers. We will have the opportunity to formally acknowledge our VCE and VCAL high achievers at an assembly on Thursday, 17 February.

2022 VCE Parent information evening – Save the Date

A livestreamed information evening for parents of students completing a VCE Units 1/2 or Units 3/4 study will be held on Tuesday, 15 February at 7.00pm. Further details including a link to join the event will be distributed: please mark this date in your calendar to ensure you are available to attend.

Scholarship Testing

Students commencing Year 7 in 2023 are welcome to apply for an Academic or General Excellence Scholarship. Scholarship testing will occur on Saturday 19 March. Applications close on Friday 11 March and are to be submitted via the link below.

<https://aus.edutest.com.au/Parent/Landing?s=oh7YGJm38XQF3r%2bJ6bU9tw%3d%3d>

Mrs Jessica Hall
Deputy Principal Learning & Teaching P-12

FAITH & MISSION

New College Theme 2022 - Marist theme

This year our College will embrace becoming a Marist-affiliated school. To be a Marist school means to shape our identity and

mission through the spirituality and educational approach that was introduced by Marist founder St Marcellin Champagnat. Marist means 'In the way of Mary'.

There are Five Characteristics of Marist Teaching:

- Presence
- Simplicity
- Family spirit
- Love of work
- In the way of Mary

As a school community, we will explore each of these characteristics as the year progresses.

This year's Marist Theme is: **KNOWN AND LOVED, DIGNITY FOR ALL**



The accompanying artwork painted by Margherita Gallucci:

Our Lady of Loreto with the Refugees' Cloak

Artist, Margherita explains,

"I felt in my heart the need to give an image of tribute to all the people who suffer marginalisation, war, hunger, despair, escape from their land, loneliness, illness... one day I looked at the images of African migrants who landed in Italy, who miraculously survived their escape into the sea, and shocking photos of all those people and children drowned in water. My heart got tight. The images of those people wrapped in emergency blankets reminded me of the Madonna of Loreto. I did not want to make the image of Mary royal, I wanted a simple emergency blanket to acquire royalty around her, since what is royal is the warmth of love that allows us to rescue and help each other."

The accompanying scripture:

'In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you.' Matthew 7:12

A deep desire of all is to feel loved, heard and to belong. The theme *Known and Loved, dignity for all*, reminds us that we are all created in God's image. If we are to truly live the Gospel message, then we must show love, respect and dignity towards every single person regardless of who they are.

The scripture verse *'In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you'* teaches us a simple lesson: treat others as you would like others to treat you.

Mary, defender of the displaced, the accompanier of the lost, the least and the lonely.

Pray for us.

Mary Selar
School Chaplain
Faith and Mission Team

PRIMARY WELLBEING

Student Wellbeing 2022

Welcome to a new and exciting school year at Marymede. We hope that you all had a restful break and are refreshed and ready for the wonderful school year ahead.

START Up Week 2022

A new school Year has commenced at Marymede and this can only mean that it is time for START Up!



The classrooms were a buzz during START Up Week, as the Teachers and students of Marymede reconnected, developed new relationships, unpacked classroom expectations, and set the tone for the year ahead.

The aim of START Up Week is:

- To assist with transition into new levels/ grades.
- To promote a sense of community and welcoming.
- To promote positive thinking and a growth mindset as learners.

We are all looking forward to a wonderful year ahead!

New Wellbeing Co-Ordinator

Hello Marymede Community!

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as your new Primary Student Wellbeing Coordinator. I have previously worked at St Clare's Primary in Thomastown West for 14 years as classroom teacher, Student Wellbeing Leader and School Counsellor. My role at Marymede will involve supporting teachers in their work with students, taking intervention groups to support student wellbeing and working with the community to ensure students feel safe and are feeling positive to enable them to be the best learners they can be.

I am very much looking forward to getting to know the students and families and supporting the school community.

Carly O'Neal-Shiple
Student Wellbeing Co-Ordinator

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

Respectful Relationships at Marymede Catholic College

Marymede Catholic College is delighted to be entering its third year as a Respectful Relationships School.

The Respectful Relationships teaching and learning program is mapped against the personal capabilities of the Victorian Curriculum and is approved and supported by Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools (MACS).

Respectful Relationships is an evidence-based, whole school approach to building a school culture of positive attitudes and behaviours, based on equality. Respected institutions such as VicHealth and the Department of Education are behind the development of the Respectful Relationships program. It is further supported by evidence from the World Health Organisation, The Royal Commission into Family Violence and others.

We recognise that, as a Respectful Relationships school, Marymede is:

- a workplace where all staff and students should feel equally respected, safe, valued and have equal opportunities;
- a safe space where young people can learn about gender equality and respectful relationships, in and out of the classroom;
- part of the wider community that can model gender equality and respectful relationships.

Through our teaching and learning programs, our students are developing their understanding of the central importance of relationships in their lives. They are developing skills in how to build these relationships through positive and respectful interactions and consideration for others.

Topics in the program include:

- Emotional literacy
- Personal strengths
- Positive coping
- Problem solving
- Stress management
- Help-seeking
- Gender and identity
- Positive gender relations

We encourage parents to talk to your child/ren about what they are learning about in their Respectful Relationships lessons.

Marymede receives funding and ongoing training and support from the Department of Education to support the implementation of Respectful Relationships. We are also part of a community hub with other Catholic schools in the area.

If you would like to learn more about the Respectful Relationships approach, please follow the link below:
Respectful Relationships whole school approach

Directors of Students:

- *Years P-3, Mrs Narelle Collins*
- *Years 4-6, Mrs Lisa Murray*
- *Years 7-9, Mr Jack Mather*
- *Years 10-12, Mr David Brick*