



St Patrick's Marist College

171 Kirby Street, Dundas NSW 2117 • Telephone (02) 8841 7900 • Facsimile (02) 8841 7999
Email: stpatsdundas@parra.catholic.edu.au • Website: www.stpatsdundas.catholic.edu.au

20 January, 2021

Good Morning St Patrick's Marist College Community,

Firstly, we hope you have had a joyous and restful break over the holiday period. A time spent as much as possible with your families and loved ones. I am so excited to see everyone back and to welcome our new families and students to our wonderful St Patrick's Marist family.

We hope that 2021 will be a year of peace, goodwill, happiness and success for everyone in our community. 2020 certainly challenged us in many ways and we will continue to prepare to do things differently as we move forward.

We received our HSC results the day after staff finished, and we were once again very pleased with the academic successes of our Year 12 cohort. We congratulate our two All Rounders (who received a Band 6 or E4 in all 10 units of study) Gabby Bovino (ATAR 98.4) and Gavin Lee (ATAR 99.8), our Dux of the College for 2020.

A very special mention to Joseph Arabit (ATAR 96.75), who achieved 3 State ranks:

- English Advanced - 3rd Place
- English Extension 1 - 6th Place
- Studies of Religion II - 9th Place

Yesterday, we received a COVID update from the Catholic Education Office Parramatta:

PARENTS AND CARERS

“Non-essential” adults are not permitted on school grounds or at school events.

Parents and carers are permitted to enter a school site for the following reasons:

- Purchase or pick up uniforms.
- Attend an essential pre-arranged meeting/appointment with school staff.
- **Drop off students for Year 7 to support settling students into a new school environment at the start of the year. I ask that you wear a mask.**
- P&F Meetings can occur after school hours with a COVID-19 Safety Plan.

FACE MASKS

Students over the age of 12 and staff must comply with the public health order to wear masks when travelling to and from school by public/shared transport and during school excursions by public transport or by chartered/private transport services.

As we prepare for the beginning of the new school year, the Wellbeing Team (Pastoral Leaders of Learning) would like to ensure that the beginning of the school commences well with a focus on learning, establishing new relationships with students and teachers or re-establishing relationships as we begin the school year.

Furthermore, establishing the College's high expectations in regards to uniform, punctuality, attendance and communication is paramount as we begin this new school year. Outlined below are some of the general expectations we have for our students as they begin the year and maintain throughout the year. Whilst there are many more that ensure the safety of our students, these are some basic expectations we would like our students to follow to ensure our focus remains on the essential elements of school.

ATTENDANCE

- The school day begins at 8:40 am. Students are required to be at Homeroom by 8.45am. Any student who arrives at school after this time will be considered late and will need to sign in via the front office.
- In regards to attendance, our expectation is that students are to be at school everyday. Whilst we realise that this is not always possible, ensuring students have continuity in their learning is of vital importance.
- Our aim is for each student to attend school for a minimum of 90% of the year. If a student is absent for 5 days in a 10 week term, this means they are at the minimum level for attendance. If there are any issues in regards to your child's attendance, please contact your child's Pastoral Leader of Learning (contact details for these Leaders is located in the front of the College diary)

UNIFORM AND GROOMING

- Full summer uniform is to be worn in Term 1, please check the College Diary (2020 has these details on Page 6) or the College website. At all times, our College expects that students represent the College appropriately by wearing the uniform in a neat and tidy manner (e.g. shirts tucked in).
- All male students are to be clean-shaven and must ensure that all haircuts meet the College expectations as listed in the Diary. As we start on Thursday the 28th January (Years 7,11 and 12) and Friday 29th (remaining year groups), there should be plenty of time for students to have their haircuts adjusted to meet the College guidelines.
- For our female students, please ensure that you check the length of your dress is at knee level for the start of term. Should you choose to wear jewellery, you can only wear 1 ring, 1 plain thin gold or silver chain that may be adorned with a Christian symbol, 1 thin silver or gold bracelet, 1 plain set of studs or sleepers in your earlobes. Hair which is below the top of the shoulder must be tied up in a single ponytail. All ties must be green, gold, black or white.

Please see Pages 6 and 7 of your Diary for all details relating to uniform expectations. As mentioned above, if you still have the College Diary for 2020, there are more specific guidelines mentioned here. Students will be issued with their 2021 Diaries on their respective first day at school.

MOBILE PHONES AND COMMUNICATION

- Mobile phones are permitted up until the 8.20am bell. After this point, students are not to have out or use their phones throughout the day. At the conclusion of the school day, students are then again permitted to use their phones.
- In regards to mobile phone use, we would also ask that any communication in regards to students signing out be done directly with the front office. As we are asking students to not use their phones throughout the day, we would also ask that our community respects this by contacting the front office for any communication you need with your child.
- For any communication in regards to incorrect uniform, a student signing in late or signing out to leave early, please use the spaces included at the back of the Diary. If your child is signing out early, it is your child's responsibility to have this note signed by the Pastoral Leader of Learning during homeroom. This must be completed BEFORE they go to the front office to sign out.

We ask that if Parents/Carers need to communicate with their child/ren during the school day, they do not contact them directly. We found an increase in the number of parents turning up to collect students for appointments that we were unaware of towards the end of last year.

We will share further information with you in our first newsletter.

If you are unsure about any of the above or have any questions, students please see your Pastoral Leader of Learning. Families can make contact via the College email or Office.

Yours Sincerely

Angela Hay
Principal Leader