



10 July 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Saint Stephen's College staff are looking forward to having all students back on campus on Monday 13 July for the start of Semester Two. Hopefully the second half of the year will be settled, with fewer disruptions than in Semester One, but we certainly cannot rest on our laurels. We continue to follow the guidelines set in place by the State Government, as well as Queensland Health, at the same time making school as 'normal' as possible from the start of term.

With the restrictions on social distancing still in place, we are expecting parents to continue to limit their visits on campus to arranged meetings with teachers or to conduct business at the Uniform Bookshop or Accounts Department. The drive through service provided for the students in Prep to Year 3, in the Eastern carpark, will continue to support families with the arrival and collection of our youngest students. This ensures adults are not congregating on campus.

Currently, the public health emergency has been declared until 17 August 2020. At the College we have made plans and arrangements in line with this date, but understand that things change on a daily basis (the surge in cases in Victoria is a case in point) and we may need to cancel or postpone events that we are currently planning. An example of such an event is the school musical, Grease, which has been postponed until the last week/weekend of the September break. We are hoping and praying that this event, amongst others, will go ahead as planned.

## **Health and safety on campus**

We do need to be mindful of the fact that we remain in the midst of a pandemic and we cannot become lax about our health or the health of others. For this reason, it is vital that if your child is sick or showing symptoms of COVID-19, no matter how mild, they do not attend school.

We will no longer be taking temperatures at entrances, but will reserve the right to reintroduce this precaution if we see a need.

As mentioned above, we will continue to limit visitors to the College with the only visitors permitted on campus are those who have an appointment with a staff member. As much as we like to have parents pop in, unfortunately, at this time, it is not an option.

All bubblers will be open and students will be expected to socially distance when lining up for water. Bubblers will be cleaned throughout the day. It is, of course preferable that your child brings their own full water bottle to school to minimise the use of the bubblers.

All classrooms still have sanitiser and cleaning products. Students in Years 4 to 12 will continue to wipe down their own desk at the start of each lesson with the spray and paper towel provided. Cleaners will wipe down the desks of the younger ones during recesses.



Developing character, inspiring hope

Play equipment will be cleaned at intervals during the day.

High quality facemasks are still available at the Health Centre for any student who requires one.

### **Families returning from overseas or interstate travel**

Whilst I am unaware of any families having travelled overseas for any reason, I do need to remind you that if for some reason that has happened it is imperative that you follow the State Government rules regarding quarantine.

The same is true for those who have travelled interstate and have been to an area determined to be a hotspot. Victoria is a case in mind.

Please refer to the link below for details regarding border re-entry and quarantine:

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/border-restrictions>

### **Student Wellbeing**

It has been uncertain times this year as a result of COVID-19 and we have all faced many challenges. Whilst the virus seems to have slowed in Queensland and many of the restrictions have been lifted, the virus is still a problem for many Australians, particularly in Victoria, as well as overseas. A reminder that if your child is concerned about the impact of COVID-19, either as an individual or at a community level, or they have any concerns at all, they can talk to the College Counsellor, their classroom teacher or tutor or their Head of Year. Your child/ren's wellbeing is important us; we want him/her to feel safe, happy and supported at school, and to be able to achieve their very best.

You can refer to numerous resources in Parent Lounge that you may wish to use as you discuss the ongoing situation with your children. Please be mindful of your own mental health at this time. Even if you have not been directly impacted by the COVID-19 virus and its fallout, don't underestimate the effect that hearing stories of others' hardships and the worsening situation in various areas may have on your own sense of wellbeing and the wellbeing of your children. You will find links to avenues of support amongst the resources available to you in Parent Lounge.

### **APS Sport**

#### **Junior College**

APS sport will return in Term Three for both Years 4 to 6 and Years 7 to 12 students. For our students in Years 4 to 6, there will be three weeks of training on Thursdays prior to playing a five-round season of the Season One APS sports. Monday afternoon training will start in Week Four, the same week that games commence. Following this, our students in Years 4 to 6 will prepare for Season Two APS sports before they commence as normal in Term Four. The Year 4 to 6 students will also participate in their athletics carnival in Week Four.

#### **Senior College**

Our students in Years 7 to 12 will follow a similar schedule with three weeks of training to prepare for the remainder of Season One season that we started in Term One. After school training and matches will commence in Week Four of Term Three. We will play our remaining matches but there will be no finals day. Years 7 to 12 students will have their athletics carnival in Week Ten.

A calendar detailing all of these dates will be sent out from the sports office.

### **What happens if we are directed to close for a day or two?**

In the event of a member of the staff or a student being diagnosed with COVID-19, the College may be directed to close for a day or two for cleaning to occur. If this is the case, parents will be advised via text message to refer to their email for details. From a teaching and learning perspective, given that it would, hopefully, only be for a couple of days the following will occur:

- **Prep to Year 4:** parents will be sent an email from their teacher directing the children to the Share Point folder for the day's work.
- **Years 5 and 6:** will continue to do their school work through OneNote on their laptops.
- **Years 7 to 12:** students will be expected to continue their studies as per the weekly plan as published on D2L for each subject and continue to access the content on D2L for each of their courses. This will include continuing to work on any assessment that is due. To assist in ensuring students know what to do during this potential enforced "shutdown", and in case they have any queries, we would begin each day with a Year-level Teams meeting at 8.20am, as well as conclude each day with a Year-level Teams meeting at 2.45pm. Students would be expected to attend both of these Teams meetings with their respective Heads of Year, during which a roll would be taken.

If, in the unlikely event we are directed to close for a longer period of time we would revert to our Off-Campus Learning program. Details of this would be communicated at such time.

### **College buses**

All College buses will continue their normal schedules from Monday 13 July 2020.

### **i-Centre**

Since late last term the library has been open on a Friday afternoon. This practice will continue in Semester Two if there is sufficient interest from students wishing to use the facility at that time.

### **Senior College**

We hope your child/ren had a good break and we look forward to welcoming him/her back to school on Monday 13 July. A reminder the school day starts with Tutor Group at 8.20am, so we ask that students are prompt and come to school prepared to continue their studies. A reminder also about our uniform expectations – it is important that students are dressed correctly at all times and they wear their uniform with pride. Students in Years 11 and 12 are asked to wear their formal uniform as of this term, which includes blazers, long pants for boys and stockings for girls. Our Dean of Students, Mrs Kathy Dendy, will be communicating with you in a little more detail via email next week about our expectations.

### **For your interest**

I was delighted with the positive and constructive feedback from all members of the community with regards to how the College fared during Off-Campus Learning. I am working through the feedback and as a staff we will be using it in our future plan. I have included a few pages of the results provided by MMG Education for your interest. Please see **Attachment A**.

I am not sure how aware everyone is of the current restrictions in place in Queensland. Please see **Attachment B** for a summary of restrictions and border rules.

We are indeed lucky to be living in Queensland, Australia right now. Witnessing the increase in infection rates in other countries around the world and, recently, in Melbourne has been disturbing. My heart goes out to all affected directly or indirectly at this time, but most particularly for those poor families in lockdown in the towers around Melbourne.

*Ever present God,  
be with them in their isolation,  
be close to them in their distancing,  
be healing in their sickness,  
be joy in their sadness,  
be light in their darkness,  
be wisdom in their confusion,  
be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,  
that when the doors reopen  
they may inhabit their communities  
and speak of your goodness  
to an emerging world.  
**Amen.***

kind regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Kim Cohen'.

Kim Cohen  
**Principal**