



10 August 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers

This is just a quick update with regards to the wearing of masks on campus and parents visiting the campus.

Students are doing particularly well with the wearing of masks, even though they find it an inconvenience. Teachers have been amazing in their ability to adapt, once again, to a new situation. You can only imagine how hard it is to teach a class full of students with a mask covering your mouth. Not only are teachers having to project their voices, they are also having to use their eyes more as a means of expression. I am so very grateful for the work our teachers do.

I would like to remind parents that given the direction to wear masks at school is a directive from the Chief Health Officer as part of the latest Public Health Directive (PHD), any people exempt from doing so must provide us with the relevant documentation, this may be in the form of written confirmation from parent. Thank you so much to those who have provided this.

There is much conflicting advice about this out in the community and even amongst doctors, but we have made decisions based on information obtained from Queensland Health, Independent Schools Queensland (ISQ), Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHS QLD) and the Human Rights Commission. We are aware that other sites offer conflicting advice and we have looked at these, but decisions about how best to keep our community safe have been made based on the most up to date information from our sources, which we know to be reliable.

Two points of clarity which are important are:

- Before allowing a student to enter the campus without a mask, schools should ask parents to provide information or other evidence to support the validity of the exemption being relied upon. Schools should retain this information as proof of their due diligence in complying with the PHD. (ISQ)
- The Australian Human Rights Commission states it is lawful and not discrimination to ask a person to verify they have a medical exemption for the propose of maintaining the health and safety of the workplace

Given the advice received from WHS QLD that the Work Place Health and Safety Act requires the College to manage the health and safety of those on campus, we remind parents that they should not be on campus if at all possible, though we understand that you may need to come on if:

- you urgently require something from the Uniform Book Shop
- you urgently require to make a payment in person at the Accounts Office
- you need to drop off late or collect early, a student in the Junior College. If you cannot wear a mask, please phone Junior Administration from the eastern carpark and someone will collect your child from the car



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Parents of Senior College students who are being collected early are to please remain in their cars and phone Student Welfare from the carpark. Your child will be signed out and sent to the car.

Any meetings with staff should be held via Teams or over the phone.

Any parents entering the campus are required to wear a mask and if you are exempt from doing so, please do not enter the campus.

My apologies if the tone of this email appears officious, but the health and safety of the 1,200 students in our care is our primary concern.

Thank you again for the overwhelming support we had from parents with regards to this latest directive. Your positivity and encouragement mean so much at a time when all are struggling in some form or another. As I said to teachers today, 'I think the best way to get through it is to remind ourselves of all we have to be grateful for, as opposed to focusing on how tough this restriction is. If wearing a mask is what is required to keep ourselves, our families and the whole community safe then so be it'.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Cohen', written in a cursive style.

Ms Kim Cohen
Principal