

25 January 2022

**Information Letter Years 7-12
Term 1 Weeks 1- 3**



Dear Parents, Carers, Students, Staff and Friends of Penola Catholic College,

Welcome back to the new School Year for 2022. A very special welcome to our new Year 7 families and other new families joining us at Penola Catholic College. A copy of this information letter has also been sent via email, Compass, and placed on our College Website under In The Loop/School Notes. The purpose of this letter is to give you advance notice of the events that will be occurring during Term 1 Weeks 1 - 3 working within the current COVID-19 requirements. A more detailed information letter will be sent to our community members in Term 1, Week 4.

For those returning to Penola in 2022 I hope that it will be a positive, enriching and fulfilling year for your sons and daughters and for the community as we continue to work together to respond to COVID-19. Your cooperation and understanding are greatly appreciated. Our highest priority is to keep all members of our community safe and healthy while maintaining, if possible, face to face learning and teaching.

As a new member of the community myself, I have felt very welcome and being the incoming Principal I will do my utmost to ensure that the traditions, history and positive culture of Penola Catholic College are maintained and enhanced.

My prayer as we commence this year of faith and learning is for all members of the Penola community; that we work together for the benefit of the students in our care. I look forward to meeting parents, carers, students and friends of the College in the coming weeks and months on site or via zoom.

Year 12 – 2021 HSC Results

Congratulations to the Year 12 Class of 2021 who have achieved outstanding results! We are proud of all the Penola Graduates, their individual and collective efforts and growth, as they walked in the tradition of Mary MacKillop, promoting the values of courage, compassion, integrity and hope during their last two extraordinary years of lockdowns and remote learning. Thank you to their teachers and families who helped them on their journey of personal excellence. More information on the HSC results will be published in the coming days via the College communication platforms.

Return to Face-to-Face Learning and Teaching COVID Requirements / Rapid Anitgen Tests (RAT)

Please refer to the community letter from Mr Greg Whitby Executive Director Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta that has been attached with this information letter. Further information will be sent to all families next week. As at today, the RAT tests provided by the Government have not been delivered to the College we will advise families in the coming days how and when they will be distributed.

2022 Term 1 Weeks 1-2 Major events that affect students across year groups

Friday 28 January	Staff Learning Day - Pupil Free Day
Monday 31 January	Staff Learning Day - Pupil Free Day
Tuesday 1 February	Year 7 Commence - Orientation / Reflection Day - Timetables will be released to students online and in hard copy on the first day of classes.
Wednesday 2 February	Years 7-11 and 12 Commence normal classes - Week B of the timetable. Timetables will be released to students online and in hard copy on the first day of classes.
Thursday 3 February	Years 8-10 Commence normal classes - Week B of the timetable. Timetables will be released to students online and in hard copy on the first day of classes.
Friday 4 February	Only Student Identification Cards - All Year groups will have their photograph taken. Formal school photographs will be taken later in the year.

Uniform Update - PDHPE Practicals Lessons & Representative/External Thursday Sport

Please refer to the college uniforms guidelines below and students will be informed when they have practical PDHPE lessons. Students are to bring their PDHPE uniform to change for lessons at recess and lunch. Due to no representative and external sporting activities being held on Thursday 3 February. All students are to wear their full summer uniform, not their sports uniform. More details about Thursday Representative Sport will be communicated in Week 3. [Uniform Specifications](#)

Compass Parents Portal

During the first few days of school, Compass login details and instructions will be emailed to all parents/carers that had not previously used our communication system. If you do not receive this message or have any challenges accessing the data on your child, please contact the College office so we can assist you in reaching the valuable information available online regarding your child and their studies.

You can learn more about Compass using our parent guide available [here](#).

The College Diary

All students will receive their diary when they return to school next week and this is a most important document. Not only is it where students are expected to prepare for upcoming assessment tasks, it is also one of the main tools used by the College to communicate our rules and expectations with students, parents and carers. Teachers will further record on the Compass Portal daily and parents/carers are asked to check this portal at regular intervals.

Due to its importance, students are expected to use their diary only for the purposes for which it is intended. Decorations or graffiti are unacceptable as is removing pages from the diary.

Canteen

Unfortunately, due to the COVID school requirements and staff availability the canteen remains closed. We are hopeful that the canteen will be opened later in Term 1.

Contacting the school

If you have any concerns regarding your child's learning from day to day, we encourage you to not put requests or comments through our social media page but to contact the College Office on 4728 8100 to ensure your queries or concerns are answered in a timely manner.

School Fees/Finance

If you have any concerns regarding the payment of your school fees or you are experiencing financial hardship, please contact the College Business Manager, Mrs Peta Gardiner, for a confidential discussion.

School fees for Term 1 will be sent out from our head office in Parramatta and these are scheduled to be generated from approximately the 8 February 2022. Please click on the link following link for additional information in relation to school fees. [CEDP School Fees Information](#)

Conclusion

Finally, I am always happy to speak to you about your child's education or issues that affect their education. If I cannot help you directly, I will ensure you are put in contact with the person/s that can assist you. If I am not available when you call, it is only because someone else 'got in' before you, but I will always endeavour to get back to you if someone else cannot assist you.

I look forward to engaging with you all in 2022, knowing that our faith in God will strengthen all of us as we work to ensure the very best Catholic Education possible for those in our care.

Warm regards,

Mr J Fanning
Principal Leader