

## College Principal's NEED TO KNOW 14 June 2022



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

As we come towards the end of Term 2, we should take the time to reflect upon the increasing number of face to face events that have been occurring at Penola. Some of the events include the Year 7 and 9 NAPLAN Tests, PDSSSC Sport Gala Days, Social Media Training, Visits to Western Sydney University, Careers Markets, 2023 Subject Preferences Afternoon, Parents/Carers as Partners Hub, Year 7 Retreat Day and our Athletics Carnival.

Recently Year 12 students and teachers spent two days at Grose Vale on the annual Year 12 Retreat. This Retreat is always a highlight of school life for our students beyond the classroom and it allowed them to take time out of their daily routine to refresh themselves for what lies ahead this year and beyond.

I am also currently reading the Semester 1 Student Learning Reports and would like to congratulate the students who achieved 'personal bests', and/or their own learning goals.

## **Learning and Teaching**

Penola Catholic College, previously McCarthy Catholic College, commenced as a new school on 28 January 2020.

Our name follows the rich history and tradition of St Mary MacKillop and the Josephite Religious order which the school has followed over many years. Penola Catholic College was the name selected by our Bishop, Father Vincent Long. Penola is a South Australian town in which St Mary MacKillop founded her first school with Father Julian Tension Woods.

Penola Catholic College aims to create a learning community in partnership with students, parents/carers and the broader community. Our collective high expectations and growth mindset underpin the learning paradigm and will determine the learning success of our students. We also believe that building healthy relations is the key to opening the possibility of establishing positive learning experiences with students.

The Mary MacKillop values of courage, compassion, integrity and hope will permeate all aspects of our learning and faith community. It is these key values which form the strong foundation of our culture, where every student is highly valued and their opportunities to be curious learners in an ever-changing world will be fostered and nurtured to exceed beyond their expectations. Our motto is "Believe, Achieve and Succeed" whilst walking in the footsteps of St Mary MacKillop.

## **NAPLAN**

The NAPLAN assessments have been completed for our Year 7 and Year 9 students. NAPLAN is a valuable opportunity for schools to gain learning data about their students. It is a diagnostic test that looks to provide teachers with information about how to support students in engaging with their learning and achieving growth.

NAPLAN results are usually received late in Term 3 or early Term 4, and comprehensive NAPLAN reports are provided to parents/carers by ACARA, the body with responsibility for delivering and marking the tests. We will provide parents/carers with more information about NAPLAN results later in the year.

## **2023 Student Enrolment Update**

We continue to have applications for Year 7 and the second-round enrolment offers have been emailed to the families. If you know of any family wishing to enrol for 2023, please ask them to contact

Mrs Sharon Clarke on 4728 8120 to avoid the disappointment of missing a place next year.

The third round of offers will be sent in the next few weeks. There are also current vacancies in Years 7-11. We have also started to receive enquiries about enrolment for Years 8-11 in 2023.

## Parents/Carers Tell Them From ME (TTFM) Survey – Closes Friday 1 July

We would like to invite you to complete the *Tell Them From Me (TTFM)* Partners in Learning survey. As we value the role of parents/carers within our school community, we would appreciate your feedback. The information you provide will be used to maintain our commitment to working together in partnership to further improve student learning and wellbeing at Penola Catholic College.

The survey is anonymous and will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. You can access the survey on your computer or mobile device by using the URL below:

<http://tellthemfromme.com/penola2022>

If you have any further questions about this survey, please contact Mrs Sparkes at the College on 02 4728 8100.

Thank you to the students and parents/carers that have already completed the TTFM - 'Tell them from me' surveys. The survey results will be shared with our community via the Need to Know and at other meetings/assemblies with students and parents/carers in Term 3.

## 2023 Year 9, 10 and 11 Subject Preferences Afternoon.

Thank you to the students, parents/carers and teachers who attended the afternoon on Tuesday 7 June. Additionally, information about subjects is available online via our college website. Here you will be able to access copies of the subject preference handbooks as well as links to videos explaining our subject choices. We look forward to working with you during the subject preference process.

Students will make their selections electronically. The timeline for this process is outlined below

- **Term 2, Week 6 - Friday 3 June 2022:**  
Students and parents/carers emailed subject preference information and booklets.
- **Term 2, Week 7 - Tuesday 7 June 2022:**  
Subject Preference Afternoon held on site between 4pm and 6pm. Updated subject information available via the college website.
- **Term 2, Week 8 - Tuesday 14 June 2022:**  
Personalised subject link emailed to students to submit subject preferences.
- **Term 3, Week 1 - Friday 22 July 2022:**  
Deadline for subject preferences to be submitted.
- **Term 3, Week 9 - Friday 16 September 2022:**  
Students emailed confirmation of their subject choices for 2023.

## Parents/Carers as Partners Hub Meeting

Thank you to the fifteen families that were represented at the first meeting for 2022. We would like to invite all parents/carers to our next meeting in the Mary MacKillop Learning Centre at the college on Monday 20 June 2022 from 9.00am to 10.00am.

This will be an opportunity to hear your insights and feedback about the learning of the students at the college.

Book tickets through [CompassTix](#)

Ticket bookings close Friday 17th June at 11:00am.

## Staff Update

This situation is monitored daily, and we will do everything possible to ensure that student learning is not impacted during this time due to staff on unplanned leave because of COVID and Influenza. Thank you to parents/carers and students for their ongoing support during these unprecedented times of limited availability of teachers.

- Last week we farewelled Mr John Durkin who decided to retire after teaching for 43 years. We are currently advertising to replace Mr Durkin.
- Mrs Dannielle Hamilton will commence paternity leave from the start of Term 3. Mr Jacob Waldon has been appointed as the Acting Leader of Learning – Science. Mrs Hamilton's Science classes will be taken by Mrs Balwinder Kaur. We welcome Mrs Kaur to Penola.
- We also welcome Ms Celestine Thangadurai who has commenced this week as the Science Laboratory Technician.
- Currently Mr Robert Feeney – Director of Religious Education & Mission is on leave until the end of this term. Mr. Feeney's classes have been taught by some of our current staff and Mrs Pittman. Mr Nekic and Mr Sutton have been completing Mr Feeney's leadership tasks while he is on leave.
- At the end of this term, we say farewell to the following permanent staff who are taking up positions at other schools as part of their professional development. Ms Sarah Holt and Ms Samantha Berridge. We thank these staff members for their contribution to the College. We are currently advertising to replace these two teaching/leadership positions within the college.

## Staff Learning – Pupil Free Days

A reminder that our next Staff Learning – Pupil Free Day is **Monday 18 July 2022**. All students commence Term 3 on Tuesday 19 July. This is Week B of the timetable.

Please contact the college before each Staff Learning-Pupil Free Day if you require supervision for your children on this day at school.

## Parent/Carer/Student/Teacher Interviews – Semester 1

Due to staff affected by COVID and Influenza Parent/Carer/Student/Teacher – Semester 1 Interviews will again be via zoom.

Information about the bookings will be sent to all families via compass email. Please contact the college if you require supervision for your children on Friday 1 July at school as there will be no timetable classes on this day to allow all teachers to complete the zoom interviews.

The Semester 1 interviews will be held.

- Session 1: Thursday 30 June – 4.00 - 6.30pm.  
(Please note that this date has changed from Tuesday 28 June)  
Session 2: Friday 1 July – 9.00am - 3.00pm

## Term 2 Weeks 9-10 events that affect parents/carers and students across Years 7 - 12

<b>Monday 20 June</b>	Year 10 Vaccination Meningococcal - ACWY
<b>Tuesday 28 June</b>	Year 7-11 Semester 1 Academic Award Ceremonies
<b>Thursday 30 June</b>	Year 8 Retreat Experience onsite at Penola
<b>Thursday 30 June</b>	Session 1 - Parent/Carer/Student/Teacher Interviews 7-12 (4:00pm - 6:30pm)
<b>Friday 1 July</b>	Session 2 - Parent/Carer/Student/Teacher Interviews 7-12 (9:00am - 3:00pm)
<b>Friday 1 July</b>	Last Day of Term 2 – No timetable classes. However, supervision will be provided on site for students who are not able to be at home on this day.

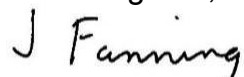
## Term 3 Weeks 1-3

<b>Monday 18 July</b>	Staff Learning - Pupil Free Day
<b>Tuesday 19 July</b>	Term 2 Week 1 commences for all students. We commence with Week B of the timetable. Please refer to Compass for any timetable changes for Week 1B
<b>Wednesday 20 July</b>	PDSSSC Netball Gala Day at Jamison Park, Penrith
<b>Wednesday 27 July</b>	PDSSSC Oztag Gala Day at Kingsway, St Marys
<b>Friday 29 July</b>	Year 12 Biology Excursion to Penrith Lakes
<b>Tuesday 1 August</b>	Year 12 HSC Trial Examinations commence

I am always happy to speak to you about your child's education or issues that affect their education.

May the spirit of St Mary Mackillop be always with you as we walk in her footsteps as people of compassion, courage, integrity and hope.

Warm regards,



Mr J Fanning  
Principal Leader