

**College Principal's NEED TO KNOW**  
**16 May 2022**



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

I have been impressed with the way in which our students have returned for Term 2, with outstanding grooming, uniform and a renewed energy for learning. The students are our best advertisement, and they certainly have demonstrated this during Weeks 1-3.

During the last three weeks, we have continued to have students and staff testing positive to COVID which has resulted in some classes being combined. The wet weather has again impacted on some of the extra - curricular activities and representative sport. Thank you again for your patience and understanding as we continue to work together to respond to the impact of wet weather and COVID-19 in our community.

## **Penola Catholic College Learning and Teaching**

In addition to our learning and teaching programs each year we set goals for students and staff as a community based upon our current needs for our students.

The overarching Formation Focus Goal is to Enable Pope Francis' "Let Us Dream" to be the driver of deeper learning to create a safe, supportive and inclusive environment where every member of the community is welcomed and valued.

The overarching Learning Focus Goal is to further develop the consistent and coherent culture of high expectations and feedback that enables all learners to be challenged and experience success in their learning and teaching.

## **NAPLAN**

The NAPLAN assessments commenced for our Year 7 and Year 9 students last Tuesday 10th May and the catch-up testing will be completed this week. We use this literacy and numeracy data to plan our educational programs at the school level and to deliver differentiated instruction at the student level. The results will be available during Term 3.

## **2023 Student Enrolment Update**

We have many applications for Year 7 and the first-round enrolment acceptances 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 out on a place next year.

The second round of offers will be sent in the next few weeks. There are also some current vacancies in Years 7-11. We have had an increase in many families wishing to attend Penola Catholic College during 2022 and into 2023.

## **Tell Them From ME (TTFM) Survey**

Once again, this year throughout Week 6 of this term the college will conduct a survey of students, staff, and parents (TTFM- 'Tell them from me'). This is an opportunity for the college to gather valid and reliable data which will be used for school improvement and planning, whilst providing insight to the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta around Engagement, Wellbeing and Effective Teaching/Learning.

The survey will be open between 30th May and 1st July. Please contribute by providing feedback on the things you think are working well and the things you see as needing improvement. More detailed information regarding your participation in the survey and your opportunity to contribute will be sent to all families via compass email in Weeks 4 and 5 this term.

## Parents as Partners Hub Meeting

I would like to invite all parents and carers to the **Partners Hub** meeting in the Mary MacKillop Learning Centre at the college on Monday 23 May (3.30-4.30pm).

This will be an opportunity to hear your insights and feedback about the learning of the students at the college. There will be other opportunities on different days and times to attend onsite for these meetings during the remainder of 2022.

Book tickets through [CompassTix](#)

Ticket bookings close Friday 20th May at 11:00am.

## Staff Update

To assist in the learning, teaching and wellbeing of our college community we have made some additional temporary leadership appointments.

- Mr. Martin Stein Director of Learning – Wellbeing
- Mr. Braedon Cuneo Assistant Leader of Learning – Stage 4 (Year 7)
- Ms. Lani Brookfield Assistant Leader of Learning – Stage 5 (Year 9)
- Ms. Danielle Bull Assistant Leader of English – Years 7- 9
- Mr. Mitchell Sutton Liturgy Facilitator
- Mr. Daniel Nekic RE Learning & Teaching Facilitator – Stage 5
- Mr. Luke Potts TAS Learning & Teaching Facilitator – Stage 5
- Ms. Sarah Holt Teacher in Charge of Student Leadership Stewardship & Recreation working with Mr. Sutton – Liturgy and Mr. Stein – Wellbeing.
- Mrs. Leezar Camilleri Communications, Events & Marketing Officer

These appointments have also created additional support for Mr. Robert Feeney, Director of Religious Education & Mission, Mrs. Julie Petrovski, Director of Pedagogy & Instructional Coach and Mrs. Una Hughes, Director of Learning – Curriculum, to enhance the learning opportunities at Penola Catholic College.

We welcome Mrs. Emily Diamond and Mrs. Nicole Tran who have commenced working with Mrs. Katrina Cunningham and Mrs. Catherine Molloy in the library. These additional staff will assist in supporting the students and teachers in this important space at the college.

We will be farewelling Mr. Benjamin Follan on Thursday 26 May who has been our groundsman at the college for the last 4 years. Mr. Follan is moving out of our local area.

## **Athletics Carnival**

The Athletics Carnival is this Friday, 20 May at Blair Oval, St Marys. The students are excited to participate in this wonderful community day that will highlight the athletic talents of our students as well as provide an opportunity to further build on the strong House culture at the school.

Due to the wet weather in the last few weeks Blair Oval has been closed and will be inspected this Wednesday and predicted weather will be reviewed to determine if the Athletics Carnival will proceed or be postponed.

## **Staff Learning – Pupil Free Days**

A reminder that our next Staff Learning – Pupil Free Day is **Friday 10 June 2022**.

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

## **NSW Health guidelines for COVID close contacts**

NSW Health has changed the guidelines around close contacts. Close contacts attending school will need to adhere to the following in addition to the NSW Health guidelines:

- You must notify the school if your child is a close contact and is going to attend school.
- If you are identified as a close contact, you need to conduct a daily RAT and return a negative result each morning before attending school for 5 school days.
- Close contacts attending school must wear a mask indoors (except when eating or exercising).
- No student identified as a close contact will be permitted to participate in overnight excursions, including school camps.
- Any visitor to our school site who is a close contact is required to advise the school that they are a close contact before they come on site. These visitors should conduct a daily RAT and return a negative result before attending. They must also always wear a mask indoors.

An additional distribution of Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) to all families has been completed earlier this term. Families can use these RATs during the 5-day testing period.

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

A decision will be made in Week 7 depending upon the level of COVID-19 Positive cases whether the interviews will be on-site face-to-face, zoom or a combination of on-site face-to-face and zoom.

Please contact the college before Friday 1 July if you require supervision for your children on this day at school. There will not be any scheduled timetable lessons on Friday 1 July.

## Term 2 Weeks 4-10 Major events that affect parents/carers and students across Years 7 - 12

<b>Wednesday 18 May</b>	Nepean Careers Market Years 10 and 12
<b>Friday 20 May</b>	Athletics Carnival, Blair Oval – St Marys
<b>Monday 30 May - Tuesday 14 June</b>	Tell Them From Me Student, Parents/Carers/Staff Surveys
<b>Tuesday 31 May</b>	College Photographs
<b>Wednesday 1 June</b>	Parramatta Secondary Diocesan Year 7-10 Boys and Girls Football Gala Day
<b>Tuesday 7 June</b>	Report for Semester 1 Released for Year 11
<b>Tuesday 7 June</b>	2023 Year 9,10 and 11 Pathways/Subject Information Evening (4:00pm - 6:00pm)
<b>Friday 10 June</b>	Staff Learning - Pupil Free Day
<b>Monday 13 June</b>	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
<b>Tuesday 14 June</b>	Year 7 Retreat at Mt Schoenstatt  Year 8 Retreat at Winbourne  Report for Semester 1 Released for Years 7-10
<b>Friday 17 June</b>	Student Learning Performance Grade (SLP) to promote learning and wellbeing released for Year 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> (Please note that this date has changed from Tuesday 28 June)	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

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