

**College Principal's NEED TO KNOW**  
**30 March 2022**



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

During Term One we have experienced the college being closed for four days due to flooding in the local area, changes in the COVID – 19 requirements as the number of cases reduced at the start of the term and now increasing. This has resulted in some classes being combined due the staff not able to be on site due to flooding in their local area and testing positive to COVID.

Even with these challenges we have continued with college events which are in addition to the daily timetabled learning and teaching experiences and each event has helped develop our great community at Penola Catholic College to enhance our community faith formation and educational endeavours. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to work together to respond to the impact of any future extreme weather and COVID-19 in our community.

### **End of Term 1 and Term 2 Information Letters**

Information letters for each Year and Stage will be sent by the Leaders of Learning - Wellbeing to our community before the end of Term 1 which will outline the events that will occur during Term 2.

### **Penola Catholic College Learning Vision and College Culture**

It is our belief that we can create the learning culture of our college as a learning community in partnership with students, staff, parents/carers and the broader community. Our collective high expectations and growth mindset underpin the learning paradigm and will ultimately determine the learning success of our students as contemporary world learners.

We also firmly believe that building positive relationships is the key to opening the possibility of establishing positive learning experiences with students. The Mary Mackillop values of courage, compassion, hope and integrity 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 in order to exceed their expectations. Our motto is 'Believe, Achieve and Succeed in Walking the Footsteps of St Mary Mackillop'.

Penola Catholic College has produced positive learning gain for the majority of students from 2020 - 2021. Our improved HSC results from the different learning and career pathways is just one indicator of this success of our learning culture and vision.

During 2022 we will continue to build on this success and further develop the students of Penola ensuring they are met with challenges & stretched within their learning and achieve success by engaging with feedback cycles to know and understand where they are at in their learning and being able to self-assess.

We will continue to provide more information about our student learning strategies and growth during 2022 via information letters, Compass, Facebook and other communications systems.

## **2023 Enrolment Update**

The Open Evening, which was held recently, highlighted everything that we do here as a community with students and staff displaying our college to the wider community with genuine warmth and enthusiasm. The students, teaching and support staff are to be congratulated on their professionalism and dedication to the college during the event. Please refer to our Facebook page for information recorded from the open enrolment evening. We are currently also organising tours at different times during Term 2 for the families that could not attend the evening.

Our Open Evening attendance numbers should also serve to remind parents and carers that it is important to submit enrolment applications promptly to ensure a place at Penola Catholic College in 2023. If you know of a family that wishes to enrol their son/daughter in Year 7 at the college in 2023, please advise them to contact the college to obtain an enrolment information pack. Enrolments are also available for any other students who are not currently at Penola Catholic College, especially Year 11 for 2023. First round offers of enrolment letters will be being sent to families for 2023 from 4 – 8 April.

## **Staff Update**

During this term, we farewelled Mr Ryan Elston, Ms Mary Mansour and Mr Marco Testa. We thank them sincerely for their dedication to the students during their time here at the College. Ms Monica Sharp will be on leave during Term 2. We welcome the following staff during Term 1 and from the start of Term 2. Xandro Lombardi (TAS), Mitchell Sutton (HSIE/RE) Enzo Santoro (RE/CAPA) and Hannah Bellato (HSIE).

## **Parents Representative Council – Diocese of Parramatta (PRC)**

Please contact me if you wish to represent the college at the Parents Representative Council – Diocese of Parramatta (PRC). Please refer to this link for information about the council.

<https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/our-schools/parents-as-partners/parents-representative-council>.

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

Updated information will be provided if any of the following dates are changed regarding Staff Learning – Pupil Free Days for the remainder of 2022. To assist with your planning, our next Staff Learning - Pupil Free Day is Friday 10 June. The other Staff Learning-Pupil Free Days for this year are Monday 18 July, Friday 18 November and Tuesday 20 December. Please contact the college a week before each Staff Learning-Pupil Free Day if you require supervision for your children on these days at school.

## **Winter Uniform**

Students return to school for Term 2 Week 1B on Tuesday 26 April, after the ANZAC Day Public Holiday. The changeover from summer to winter uniform for Term 2 is always difficult to determine with our changing weather patterns. However, we have decided that Week 1 and 2 being the changeover period when students can choose to wear winter or summer uniforms — not a mixture of them — depending on the weather, with the beginning of Week 3 Monday 9 May being the time all students should be in their Winter Uniform.

### **Road Works Old Bathurst Road and Smith Street from 28 March 2022**

We have been advised that there will be a roundabout constructed at the intersection of Smith Street and Old Bathurst Road beginning on 28th March for a period of 12 weeks, this will impact vehicles over 6 metres when turning left from Smith Street to Old Bathurst Road and our community may find that there is congestion while entering and exiting Smith Street. We have been in communication with the builder, CDC buses, and Busways and they have advised that the bus routes will vary slightly where buses that usually turn left will now turn right, follow Old Bathurst Road to Russell Street, circle the roundabout and proceed back down Old Bathurst Road.

We have been advised this should not impact on students who have a connecting bus or train connection at Penrith Station however we ask that you consider there may be additional congestion around this area with the roadworks.

While we know that this is an inconvenience at the moment, the end result will provide additional safety at this intersection in the future for our school community and we thank you for your understanding and patience during this time.

### **End of Term 1 and Term 2 Major events that affect parents/carers and students across Years 7 - 12**

<b>Wednesday 6 April</b>	LS1 - Yr 7, LS2 - Yr 12, LS3 - Yr 8 + Yr 11 Easter Liturgies
<b>Thursday 7 April</b>	LS1 - Yr 10, LS2 - Yr 9 Easter Liturgies
<b>Friday 8 April</b>	Yr 7-12 ANZAC Day Ceremony
<b>Friday 8 April</b>	Penola Cross Country
<b>Friday 8 April</b>	Last Day of Term 1
<b>Tuesday 19 May - Thursday 22 April</b>	HSC Holiday Study Tutorials

<b>Monday 25 April</b>	ANZAC Day Public Holiday
<b>Tuesday 26 April</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>Monday 9 May</b>	Parramatta Secondary Diocesan Team Tennis Gala Day
<b>Monday 10 May - Thursday 20 May</b>	Year 7 & 9 NAPLAN Writing, Reading, Language and Numeracy (Catch up exams Tuesday 18th-Thursday 20th May)
<b>Tuesday 10 May &amp; Wednesday 11 May</b>	Year 12 Retreat at BXVI Conference Centre
<b>Friday 13 May</b>	Parramatta Secondary Diocesan Cross Country
<b>Wednesday 18 May</b>	Nepean Careers Market Yr 10 and 12
<b>Friday 20 May</b>	Athletics Carnival
<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>	Parent/Carer/Student/ Teacher Interviews 7-12 (4:00pm - 6:30pm)
<b>Tuesday 28 June</b>	Year 7-11 Semester 1 Academic Award Ceremonies
<b>Friday 1 July</b>	Parent/Carer/Student/ Teacher Interviews 7-12 (9:00am - 3:00pm)
<b>Friday 1 July</b>	Last Day of Term 2

## Easter

As we move closer to Easter our students are continuing their Lenten practice of working for Caritas. Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising and awareness raising appeal is an extraordinary, ongoing demonstration of the faith, love and generosity of the Catholic community and caring supporters throughout Australia to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. This was clearly displayed by the students and staff who organised and participated in harmony day which was held on Monday 21 March.

I am always happy to speak to you about your child's education or issues that affect their education. We will continue to provide the best learning at school and online we can as we continue to work nationally in responding to COVID-19 and extreme weather conditions. 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