

## Stage 4 Leader of Learning NEED TO KNOW Term 2, 2022



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

Stage 4 students have made a strong start to the year during Term One despite the many challenges faced due to COVID and the flooding in the local area. I commend all our Year 7 and 8 students and their families for being flexible and adaptable during these somewhat uncertain times.

By now you would have received the **Student Learning Performance** report for your child in each of their subjects. This report provides a snapshot of your child's progress

thus far, a more detailed end of Semester report will be sent via Compass towards the conclusion of Term Two. To assist students in achieving their learning goals, I am pleased to announce that **Homework Help** returns for students on Monday afternoons from 3-4pm in the library. I encourage any student who would like extra support with their learning to attend these sessions.

In day to day life our students can be faced with many challenges that can, on occasion, extend beyond the classroom. Your child's homeroom teacher is always available for help, support or a conversation. As we enter the holiday break, I am mindful that some families may require additional support. In light of this, I am including the **kids help line** link for families and students to access should the need arise. This website is most useful for helping parents, carers and young people navigate some of the complexities of their world.

[Kids help line](#)

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#### Stage 4 Prayer

### St Mary of The Cross Mackillop

*Ever generous God, you inspired Saint Mary Mackillop to live her life faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and constant in bringing hope and encouragement to those who were disheartened, lonely or needy.*

*With confidence in your generous providence and through the intercession of Saint Mary Mackillop we ask that you grant our request.*

*We ask that our faith and hope be fired afresh by the Holy Spirit so that we too, like Mary Mackillop, may live with courage, trust and openness.*

*Ever generous God hear our prayer.*

*We ask this prayer Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## Calendar of Key Dates

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.

<b>Term 2, 2022 Major events that affect parents/caregivers and students across Years 7- 8</b>		
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>April 6th</b>	LS1 - Year 7 Easter Liturgy LS3 - Year 8 Easter Liturgy
<b>Monday</b>	<b>April 25th</b>	ANZAC Day Public Holiday
<b>Monday-Thursday</b>	<b>May 16th - 19th</b>	NAPLAN Writing, Reading, Language and Numeracy (Catch up exams Tuesday 18th-Thursday 20th May).
<b>Friday</b>	<b>May 20th</b>	Athletics Carnival
<b>Monday</b>	<b>May 30th</b>	SMASH Year 8 - Social Media
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>May 31st</b>	School Photo Day
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>June 7th</b>	Year 8 - Subject Selection Evening
<b>Friday</b>	<b>June 10th</b>	Pupil Free Day
<b>Monday</b>	<b>June 13th</b>	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>June 14th</b>	Report for Semester 1 Released for Years 7-10 Year 7 Retreat at Mt Schoenstatt Year 8 Retreat at Winbourne
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>June 21st</b>	Parent Teacher Interviews 7-12
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>June 28th</b>	Academic Award Ceremonies 7-11
<b>Friday</b>	<b>July 1st</b>	Last Day Term 2

## Winter Uniform

Students return to school for Term 2 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 full Winter Uniform.

## Friendship

At our last assembly, I spoke about friendship. There is no greater lesson to be learnt than to be treated as you treat others. I continue to implore students to think about how they treat others. Be the friend you wish to have. As the year progresses and issues arise, this will be the first question I ask of students. Are you being the friend you wish to have? and importantly, are you being kind?

## Open Night

Thank you to the Year 7 and 8 students that assisted on the Open Evening. The hospitality and respect you showed to visitors and others in our community was uplifting. Thank you to all the students and staff for instilling in our visitors a sense of community and belonging.

## NAPLAN

Parents/Carers will receive information regarding NAPLAN Tests for Year 7 via the COMPASS portal early in Term 2. The College will ensure students are familiar with the format of the tests before the NAPLAN test window. It is important to remember that NAPLAN is not about passing or failing, but about assessing learning progress. The best approach for preparing your child for NAPLAN is to encourage your child to do the best they can on the day.

## Attendance

Attendance matters and we need your help this year. Only two absences every month can add up to four weeks of lost learning over the year. Missing school, whether for justified or unjustified reasons, disrupts a student's education. Having one day off a fortnight equates to your son/daughter missing out on 4 weeks of school in a year. You play a big role in ensuring that your child is an everyday learner who attends school every day.

## Attendance Matters Everyday

When you miss "just" ...	that equals ...	which is ...	and therefore from Kindergarten to Year 12, that is ...	This means that the best you can achieve is ...
1 day each fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years of school learning	Equal to finishing Year 11
1 day a week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years of school learning	Equal to finishing Year 10
2 days a week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 7
3 days a week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 4

## Partial Absences Add Up

When you miss "just" ...	EVERY WEEK	EVERY YEAR	and therefore, from Year 7 to Year 12 that is ...
10 minutes a day	50 minutes of learning (1 whole period)	40 periods (nearly 1 and a ½ weeks of school)	9 weeks of school (nearly 1 whole term)
20 minutes a day	100 minutes of learning (2 whole periods)	80 periods (nearly 2 and a ½ weeks of school)	15 weeks of school (one and a ½ terms)
½ an hour a day	150 minutes of learning (3 periods or HALF A DAY OF LEARNING)	120 periods (4 weeks of school)	24 weeks of school (more than half a year)
1 hour a day	300 minutes of learning (6 periods or ONE WHOLE DAY OF LEARNING)	240 periods (8 weeks of school ... almost a full term!)	48 weeks of school (over one year of school missed)

The tables suggest that missing school can equate to more time off school than considered when you allow your child to take the day off. These statistics show exactly what we don't want for the students here, as we want them to experience the best learning, they can here at Penola Catholic College. Please acknowledge that your child should not be taking time off school for unjustified reasons, as it can take a major toll on their education. Attendance does matter, and we are seeking your help.

### Sport Update from Miss Muscat

Penola has had a wonderful start to the year with our sporting accomplishments and we are so proud of all our athletes! On the 25th of February we held our annual Swimming Carnival. Students registered to attend and turned up to compete for a place on the Penola Swim Team. From this carnival, we had 20 students qualify to represent Penola on the 11th of March at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre, at the PDSSSC Swimming Championships. From this event, we had Jack Barry (Year 8) and Maya Bailey (Year 10)

qualify to represent the Parramatta Diocese at the CSNSW event. This is such an amazing achievement, and we wish them the best of luck!

Penola has also had a number of students trial in a range of PDSSSC sports this term, with many more registered for upcoming trials. Congratulations to the following students for their achievements in being selected for a PDSSSC team:

Jhett Sydir - PDSSSC U15s Rugby League Team 1 and Touch Football

Lachlan Wraight - PDSSSC U15s Rugby League Team 2

Events to look forward to this year include our competitors only Penola Cross Country on the Friday 8 April and our whole school Penola Athletics Carnival held on the 20 May. More information on these events will follow.

We are so proud of all of our athletes and wish them the best of luck in their future sporting pathways. Please keep an eye on our Penola Sport website for all closing dates and carnival information accessible via

<https://sites.google.com/parra.catholic.edu.au/penola-sport/home>

## **College Uniform**

Our college community takes great pride in wearing our college uniform and as a result, we have specific expectations and guidelines around uniform attire for our students. Our Penola uniform is most significant as it identifies and unites us as a community while also meeting the WHS requirements. We ask families to support the college with our uniform policy and ensure students are dressed appropriately in the correct school uniform. Please spend time with your child to read through pages 18-23 of the College Diary to better understand the college uniform requirements. Some items to note:

- Long hair must be tied back
- Extreme haircuts are not permitted. These include mullets, undercuts, scalp designs etc.
- Hair must be one natural colour
- No visible body piercings are permitted. These include facial, nose and tongue piercings. One small set of silver or gold round, stud earrings in the lower earlobe only.
- One simple/discrete gold or silver chain around the neck with an appropriate religious symbol may be worn. Please read page 19 of the College Diary to better understand the jewellery expectations.
- Sports Jackets cannot be worn with the summer or winter college uniform. Students must wear the jumper or blazer with their summer uniform or winter uniform if they are cool.

- For safety reasons, shoes must be black, polished, hard leather, laced up and closed-in school shoes. This is a WHS requirement. Soft leather, casual, sports or skater shoes are not permitted with their everyday College uniform.
- Athletic style running shoes are the only sports shoes that can be worn with the college PE uniform. Canvas style casual running shoes are not to be worn for safety reasons for PE or Sport.
- Penola uniform socks (grey/blue stripe) can be purchased only through LOWES.

We continue to enjoy working alongside you in supporting your child's educational journey. If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy and safe Easter holiday.

Yours sincerely,



*Mrs Rachel Miller*  
*Stage 4 Leader of Learning*



*Mr Jim Fanning*  
*Principal Leader*