

14 April 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers

It is a great joy to return to Loreto College for Term 2, I extend my deep gratitude for the many cards, messages and prayers which have sustained me. As I return, I feel I have now emerged from a cocoon into a new world. This new world distances us all physically but this must not distance us socially. There are many ways for us to connect in this temporary online world. I can attest to this with wholehearted appreciation as in my very much limited physical world thus far this year, I have felt the warmth and care of many through online connections. Andrew Hamilton (Eureka Street, eurekastreet.com.au) describes the importance of our imagination in gaining a real sense of connection using an online medium.

The quality and reality of people's electronic presence to one another depend on the richness of their imagination. By imagination I mean the way in which we see the detailed qualities and connections of our lives and world. Our imagination can represent things and people in a blurred or homogenised way or can catch the tactile detail and the multiplicity of facets present in our face to face contact. Habitual attention and wonder will also feed sharp memories of people and events into our imagination, so strengthening the reality of presence in distance.

(Andrew Hamilton, Eureka Street; eurekastreet.com.au)

Many of you will have heard me stress the importance of a strong partnership between home and school in achieving optimal wellbeing and learning outcomes for each student. This partnership is more important than ever without the opportunity to meet in person. The Leadership Team, supported by the contribution of all staff, has everything 'ready to go' for Term 2. I express my appreciation to our talented, creative and committed staff who have worked diligently in preparation for online learning, for the work seen and unseen. Wellbeing is always at the heart of all planning. The confidence I have in the ability of each of our unique students comes from many years of witnessing them encourage each other, cheerfully embrace "the new" and seek support to overcome what seems too difficult at that particular point in time. I extend my appreciation to each of you for the trust you place in us.

We are very much aware of the many differing challenges currently being faced by our families, including health and financial concerns. Please know that we are here to support you. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

I thank parents who have advised us that your daughter(s) will be attending school for supervision due to your family fitting one of the categories as communicated by the state government:

- Children of families of essential services workers on days when they are not able to be supervised at home and no other arrangements can be made. This will be available for children of parents who cannot work from home, and
- Vulnerable children, including:
 - children in out-of-home care;
 - children deemed by Child Protection and/or Family Services to be at risk of harm;
 - children identified by the school as vulnerable (including via referral from a family violence agency, homelessness or youth justice service or mental health or other health service and children with a disability).

- Families who have previously notified the College about poor or limited internet services

Christina Sofis (Director of Administration) has contacted parents or guardians who have advised us of students who require supervision of their online learning for some specific details. We understand that some of our parents/guardians only require certain sessions, according to your shifts. To assist in ensuring we have staff scheduled for supervision; the attached form is to be completed for and emailed to attendance@loreto.vic.edu.au by 4pm each Thursday for the next week. If your daughter was to be supervised at school and develops any symptoms such as a fever, cough, sore throat or shortness of breath:

- see a doctor (call ahead to alert your doctor about the possibility of COVID-19 before visiting, and take this letter along)
- please keep her at home and advise the school.

The safety and wellbeing of all in our community is a priority. Thus we will only have limited staff working at school at any particular time, with the remainder working remotely. Students who are supervised at school will complete the work set by their teachers online and will communicate with individual teachers online. Teachers and students are following the regular timetable, with each teacher being available for students during the scheduled periods on the timetable. It is a new world for all of us!

During a regular school day our students have the opportunity to move from class to class. It will be important that our students now working at home do pause regularly and stand up and move around.

For future generations of students, staff and families who will look back upon this very difficult period in history, we would like to collect snippets and photos of how you have managed. These will then be drawn together. Please forward snippets or photos to Judy-Ann Quilliam (jquilliam@loreto.vic.edu.au).

In this, the Loreto year of Verity, I conclude with the 2020 Loreto Verity prayer created through deep reflection and discernment by the 2020 Loreto Student Leaders across Australia.

*God of light,
who guides us in ways of truth.
Ignite within us the courage to uncover our authentic selves and in doing so
discover our greatest gifts.
Illuminate the path of integrity, so our lives are defined by love and honesty.
Inspire us to look beyond our own horizons to face the truth bigger than ourselves.
Called by Mary Ward, we seek and speak the truth:
a truth that invites us to do ordinary things well,
a truth that leads to justice for all.
This is our Verity.
In Jesus' name and with the help of the Holy Spirit,
we say, Amen.*

May God bless each of you and bless you most kindly.

Yours sincerely



(Ms) Judith Potter
Principal

ON-SITE SCHOOL INTENTIONS FORM
Week effective 15/04/2020 to 17/04/2020 (inclusive)

Family Name		First Name	
Daytime Phone No.		Email Address	

Reason for attending on-site schooling* (please provide a brief explanation)	
My child is unable to work from home due to internet/data connection	<input type="radio"/>
As an essential service worker, I am not able to supervise my child at home and no other arrangements can be made	<input type="radio"/>
My child has been identified a vulnerable child:	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please describe)	<input type="radio"/>

I intend to send my child to school on the following days (please indicate morning and/or afternoon schooling):

		Wednesday 15/04/2020		Thursday 16/04/2020		Friday 17/04/2020	
		AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
		Student Name	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

Signature

Date

Please return this form to attendance@loreto.vic.edu.au by 4pm Tuesday 14/05/2020 or bring in on the morning of attendance.