

15 July, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

COMMUNICATION RE: COVID-19 UPDATE

It was wonderful to begin the new term today and meet the students as they walked through the main gate. To see their smiles and excitement to be back was lovely. Our regular means of communication are through social media and the newsletter but like most aspects of our lives, the operation of the College has changed due to COVID-19. We are reliant on all of us being aware of what we need to do and doing it!

Due to the everchanging situation, there is a need to communicate specific information to parents and carers and I will aim to send updates as needed throughout the term. A copy of letters and resources from the College for the COVID period for your reference are all accessible from the College website <https://loreto.vic.edu.au/covid19communications/>

Preventing viral transmission

We ask that that students not attend school if they or anyone in their household is ill (symptomatic) and has been tested for COVID-19. While a test is pending students should remain at home in isolation until they are confirmed negative. We understand that students and families are concerned that such absences might result in students falling behind in their learning. As a result, all teachers will be posting an outline of the work to be completed via the same platforms that remote learning was delivered. While this will not be as comprehensive as students could expect if they were attending school it will ensure that they are able to continue with their studies while at home.

We continue to emphasise **hand hygiene and social distancing**. An enhanced cleaning regime remains in place for common touchpoints such as door handles and light switches and we continue to have cleaning products in each classroom for students and staff to wipe down desks and chairs.

Students and staff travelling to school from a restricted zone within metropolitan Melbourne, are required to have their **temperature checked** when they arrive at school each day. Protocols are in place to preserve their privacy.

The use of **facemasks** is becoming more widespread. As physical distancing is not always possible at school, we are asking all students and staff to consider wearing a face mask in class. This action will help keep our teachers, students and families safe from community transmission. The current recommendation is that adults wear facemasks in settings where physical distancing is not possible, however the use of facemasks is not compulsory in schools. Please have a conversation with your daughter about this and consider providing her with a facemask. It is inconvenient, it looks and feels strange but if it keeps any of us safer it is worth the inconvenience.

Many retailers are now selling three-layer cloth masks. They can also be made at home. Some advice on this can be obtained from this link: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-07-11/how-to-make-a-mask-coronavirus-covid19-australia/12444996>

Unfortunately, we need to continue to postpone all assemblies, excursions, camps and other non-essential large gatherings. Some events lend themselves more readily to an adapted setting with the use of technology and particular sharing platforms such as Microsoft Teams and Google Classroom. This term includes Gonzaga Barry Day, Parent Information Nights and Parent Teacher Interviews. These events will take place in some form. We are currently working on a liturgy for GB day and rescheduling activities for Term 4. Parent Information Nights and Parent Teacher Interviews will be an option this term on-line.

Best wishes to you and your family for a happy, safe and productive Term 3.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Brodrick".

Michelle Brodrick
Principal