

14 October, 2020

Main Points

- Return of Students
- Impact of latest guidelines in events
- Year 12 Events
- Year 9 Camp and other events

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been wonderful to see our students safely back at Loreto this week. There is such a joy in having students and staff being able to learn, laugh and play together once again. Our immediate focus is on everyone's wellbeing and transition back to learning at school. Establishing routines and regular attendance are an important part of this transition.

We continue to adjust our programs to accommodate the ever-changing restrictions and guidelines. A consequence of the constant changes is that we are having to be flexible, adaptive and creative in working out ways to achieve the outcomes we desire. With the latest restrictions, performing arts, physical education and the ability to gather is still severely limited. As a result, staff have been working tirelessly to try and make adjustments and allow events to take place.

The Year 12 students are proving to be resilient and optimistic despite the hardships they have endured this year. They are currently completing final assessments and preparing for their examinations. Due to the latest COVID restrictions, changes have been made to the graduation ceremony and rituals. Felicity Knobel, Director of Faith and Mission, has worked with Loreto Ministries in capturing the essential elements of our graduation having it professionally recorded so that the students can still participate in a procession and receive a crown of flowers. She will continue to work with our Year 12 Coordinators and the Marketing/Development Team to assess what can happen in December for our Year 12 students so that they finish this year on a high note.

As mentioned earlier there are severe restrictions around conducting lessons indoors where activities involve some physicality or voice projection, such as singing and indoor sports. Teachers are doing their best to accommodate the new guidelines, prioritising Unit 3 and 4 essential assessments. On a positive note, our Year 9s are able to attend the Outdoor Education camp and the Arts Exhibition will take place with some students in attendance, while others can experience it virtually. Ballarat Associated Sports are currently developing programs for particular sports..

Thank you for your understanding. The complexities of remaining COVID safe, yet providing our students with as many opportunities as possible is not a simple task and I am extremely grateful to the staff, students and parents/carers for their support.

Yours sincerely



Michelle Brodrick
Principal