NEWMAN COLLEGE | A CATHOLIC SCHOOL EDUCATING IN THE MARIST TRADITION

Shine through Discovery
LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE
MATTHEW 5:16

Dear Parents and Guardians

I write to provide further information on the school's response to Coronavirus COVID-19. We are operating in response to the most recent advice from our governing agencies, including Department of Education, Marist Schools Australia, Catholic Education Western Australia, and the Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia - who will continue to respond as a collaborative team to advice from the WA Department of Health. It is also our social responsibility as a College to commit ourselves to the health and wellbeing of all members of our Community. We continue to be guided by and adhere to the collective response of our governing agencies. Our responsibility is to the provision of ongoing teaching and learning where students are engaged, protected and supported.

A web page on the College website has been created to provide up to date information as it is forthcoming (please click here).

This morning all students across PK-12 were briefed on our immediate social responsibilities while at school. We are taking enhanced precautions to ensure this provision by providing the following information below:

Basic Protective Measures

Basic personal hygiene and health protocols are being constantly reinforced with students.

They include:

- Wash your hands regularly and thoroughly
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth
- Practice respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately
- If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early
- Stay home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention and call in advance. Follow the directions of your local health authority.

Sensible social distancing has been explicitly reinforced with students. Examples of social distancing include:

- Not shaking hands
- Students not hugging each other
- Other forms of incidental social contact

The College is working towards staggering breaktimes for students.

The College's contracted cleaners have adjusted the cleaning schedule to include daily disinfection of high touch areas including door handles, light switches and toilet areas. Student bathrooms are regularly checked and supplies of soap and toilet paper are secure and signage instructing protocols for hand-washing have been installed.

For further information, I refer you WA Health Department Website or access the helpline 1800 020 080.

Challenge — Collaborate — Create — Celebrate

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College Events

The Australian Government has announced that all organised, non-essential gatherings attended by more than 500 people must be cancelled as from Monday 16 March 2020.

For gatherings of less than 500 people, the College is required to undertake a new risk assessment considering such factors as potential for contact with members of the public, cleaning and hygiene arrangements provided and the capacity to isolate a suspected COVID-19 case amongst students or staff. This will apply to school camps and retreats. If these risk factors cannot be sufficiently mitigated, consideration will be given to cancel these gatherings.

The following events currently cancelled are:

Date	**Event**
Monday 16 March	Marcellin Campus Cross Country
Monday 16 March	SunSmart Schools Tennis Classic
Wednesday 18 March	Justin Coulson, student presentations and Newman Parents event
Thursday 19 March	IPSHA Swimming Carnival hosted at Newman College
Wednesday 25 March	ACC Swim Carnival (All ACC sporting activities are suspended for the immediate future. This extends to all NAS fixtures.)
Friday 27 March	Marian Campus Grandparents Day
Tuesday 7 April	Newman College Twilight Tours
31 March – 5 April	College Production (postponed)
	Marian Campus Fitness Fridays

Non-essential school gatherings have also been suspended:

- School assemblies
- School excursions
- Sacramental retreats
- Staff external in-service and conferences
- Outdoor Education camps

In addition, our Community Mass on Thursdays has been restricted to staff and students only.

Other significant College events are being reviewed by the College Executive as we wait for clarity and direction from Marist Schools Australia and Catholic Education Western Australia. The cancellation or postponement of these events will be communicated to the community from the College.

Remote Teaching and Learning

The College Leaders of Learning and staff are planning for the provision of remote teaching and learning in the event that large groups of students are not able to come to school. The purpose of this plan is to enable Newman College to continue to deliver high quality education in the event of school closure or other major disruptions.

We recognise that it is vitally important to support the learning for Years 11 and 12 students as they work towards achieving their WACE and the completion of their chosen Academic Pathway. Under the guidance of School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA), the College will make necessary arrangements as they are provided.

Expectations of staff will be explicit and tested with teachers throughout the week, before being confirmed on Thursday 19 March 2020.

Students with limited or no access to the internet need to advise their Leader of Wellbeing at respective campus.

Cases of Self Isolation

There may be circumstances where staff and students with ongoing health concerns may need to self-isolate. In this event I would ask families to contact Vice Principal, Ms Lisa Fogliani.

School Closure

Currently, if any WA school has to close due to a confirmed case, it will be on the advice from the WA Health Department's Chief Health Officer and the Executive Director of Catholic Education. The Chief Health Officer may, if there is a positive COVID-19 test result in a school community, close a school temporarily, while assessment and tracing of exposure is conducted.

Upon the College being notified of the need to close, all families would be immediately contacted by text and by email and provided with relevant information. This communication may be during the school day, or before or after school. It is therefore important that we have up-to-date contact details for your children. Please notify the respective campus receptions if any of these details have changed.

Update advice on International Travel

The Prime Minister has introduced measures placed on international arrivals into Australia. This means a mandatory 14 day self-isolation requirement has been placed on all international arrivals into Australia effective from 9pm (WST) on Sunday 15 March.

As with all Australian travellers, students and staff who return from international travel must self-isolate for 14 days. This includes all parents, contractors and school visitors.

Travelling in the current context presents increased risks, including significant travel disruptions and delays. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has raised the level of advice for a number of countries. Conditions are changing rapidly and further updates are likely.

Ongoing Wellbeing Support

The health and wellbeing of our students and staff remains our highest priority. We need to remain vigilant to any potential for increased risks and take precautionary measures to ensure the safest possible educational environment for children and young people.

Our current provision of support for the wellbeing of our students is with the classroom teacher, Pastoral Care teacher and Leaders of Wellbeing. The College psychologists, counsellors and social worker remain available.

The great strength of our Marist community is our commitment to our family spirit in how we support each other in these uncertain times. It is imperative that families work with the College in a calm and collaborative manner and consistent with the College Code of Conduct.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding.

Yours sincerely

John Finneran
PRINCIPAL

16 March 2020