



**MARY  
MACKILLOP  
CATHOLIC  
COLLEGE**

Monday, 2 August 2021

75 Highfields Road, Highfields Q 4352

Dear Parents & Caregivers

**P** 4698 7777 **E** [highfields@twb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:highfields@twb.catholic.edu.au)

I ask please that you keep this letter handy for the next few weeks. We have tried to get as much information signposted here as possible. Where possible, we have maintained links to our website rather than static documents so that you will have the latest information.

The Queensland Government has announced that there have been 15 new COVID-19 cases reported in Queensland in the last 24 hours, 13 of which are community acquired. The new community cases all relate to the existing Indooroopilly cluster in south-east Queensland (SEQ).

Due to the emergence of more cases the Queensland Government has announced the current lockdown in the impacted areas will continue until 4pm Sunday 08 August 2021 (a lockdown period of 8 days in total). Whilst Toowoomba is not included in the lockdown restrictions at this stage, we are planning for the possibility that restrictions and lockdowns could extend to other LGAs, necessitating the provision of remote learning.

Affected LGAs are:

- City of Brisbane
- City of Gold Coast
- City of Ipswich
- Lockyer Valley Regional Council
- Logan City
- Moreton Bay Region
- Noosa Shire Council
- Redland City
- Scenic Rim Regional Council
- Somerset Regional Council
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council

If anyone in your household has been in one of the above mentioned LGAs from 1:00am Saturday 31 July, **ALL MEMBERS of your household** will need to follow the lockdown rules until 4:00pm, Sunday 8 August 2021.

### **Essential Workers**

Children of essential workers impacted by the lock down are permitted to attend the College but if they are 12 years or older, they will be required to wear a mask. Please note that teachers are essential workers so all classes will operate as normal this week.

### **Visitors to the College**

We ask please that you keep your footprint on the College grounds to a minimum where possible, and please refrain from entering classrooms. Continue to follow the COVID-safe practices of;

- physical distancing: maintain 1.5m distance where possible (except if in the same family group)
- maintain hand hygiene
- avoid congregating in or around the College, at drop-off and pick-up times, in the car park, outside the MacKillop Centre or classrooms and at the gates.

Please note there is no need for parents and carers associated with the College to use the Queensland Health app as your contact information is already on record and can be provided to Queensland Health if required for contact tracing. Any visitors to the College who do not reside with students or staff are required to use the app. If in doubt, please check with College administration staff.

### **If Unwell**

Students are to be kept at home and not attend school if unwell. If they become unwell at school someone must be available to collect as soon as possible. In line with health guidelines, if a student presents at school or home with even mild COVID symptoms, evidence of a negative COVID test may be requested by the College before the student can return.

### **Notifying the College of Absentees**

When students are away, please state clearly on the App or email [highfields@twb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:highfields@twb.catholic.edu.au) the reason for their absence and provide as much information as possible. If you are emailing your child's teacher regarding their absence, please copy in [highfields@twb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:highfields@twb.catholic.edu.au) so that we can accurately account for your child.

### **Wearing a Mask**

If you cannot safely socially distance while on College grounds, please wear a mask. For further details on mask requirements, please [click here](#).

### **In case of Lockdown**

There are several reasons for full or partial school closures, and I ask that you be prepared for any of them. Whilst there could be mandated closures, it is also possible for parts of the College to be closed due to staff absence. To ensure we are ready in the case of a lockdown in our area, we will be asking all students to take home their devices, books and belongings daily.

In the event of a lockdown in our area, please click here to read the [College Emergency Closure Procedures](#).

### **Postponed Events**

As you can appreciate, a number of College events have been postponed. For up-to-date details on these events, we will be updating this list [here](#).

We will continue to monitor the situation closely and ensure that the safety of students and staff are of the greatest importance. Please ensure you regularly check your emails, the College App and this [page on our website](#) for daily information.

## **Remote Learning**

There is a strong possibility that we will have to move to Remote Learning. In the event of a lockdown, the plans are;

- years P-3 accessing via Teams, email
- years 4-6 accessing via Canvas, Teams, email
- years 7-12 accessing via Teams, email
- in 7-12, timetabled lessons will be followed
- in P-6, particularly for a short lockdown, the focus will be literacy, numeracy and outside activities
- The MMCC online learning platform will be reactivated as a one-stop-shop for all Covid related news. This site will direct you to the appropriate learning platform.

I acknowledge that the current threat of a lockdown will be causing some anxiety. Can you please maintain contact with your classroom teacher in P-6 or your PC tutor in 7-12 if you have any concerns at this stage?

## **Devices**

Please contact the College if you have concerns about accessing devices during a period of online learning.

## **P-6 Parent Teacher Interviews**

These are scheduled for Week 7. We will proceed with the appointments process but please note that if restrictions are put in place these will be via Teams.

## **Mary MacKillop Feast Day Celebrations (6 August)**

This is an important day and within our own 'bubble'; at this stage it will proceed as planned.

## **Year 12 Assessments**

QCAA is in regular contact with schools regarding ongoing assessments and variations of due dates. These will be communicated to year 12 students and families as they arrive.

The previous Covid lockdown was challenging, but not insurmountable. In the event of a lockdown we will maintain consistent communication with you and ensure that learning is prioritised. Please stay safe. Until you hear differently, we are business as usual.

Take care

Mr Chris Gabbett

College Principal