

22 April 2020



## Our Lady of Mercy College

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I want to begin this letter by expressing my heartfelt appreciation for the manner in which our parents assisted the College to respond to the challenge we all faced in the COVID-19 pandemic. The outstanding cooperation and understanding of students, parents and staff enabled the College to successfully transition to Remote Learning to ensure that our students could continue to engage in their education. Your willingness and determination to transition to a flexible and remote model of learning in a few short weeks has been exceptional and sets our community up well for Term Two.

As you may be aware, Premier Mark McGowan announced Term Two arrangements for **public schools** in Western Australia on Friday 17 April. The following sets out Our Lady of Mercy College's arrangements for Term Two, which reflects the guiding principles of Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA):

1. The health and safety of our students and staff remain our first priority.
2. All students will continue to be provided with a quality Catholic education.
3. Decisions regarding school education will continue to be informed by national and state-based health and education advice and align with the National Principles for School Education.

When Term Two commences on Wednesday 29 April, teachers are expected to deliver **one mode of learning** only to their various classes until Friday 22 May, with a review taking place on 18 May. There will be one mode of learning for students in Years 11 and 12 and another mode of learning for students in Years 7 – 10.

As far as practical, the College will support social distancing practices. Understandably, this becomes increasingly difficult as the number of students attending increases.

### **YEAR 11 AND 12 STUDENTS**

- The College has consistently advocated that students in Year 11 and 12 are the initial priority.
- From Wednesday 29 April, students in Years 11 and 12 are **strongly encouraged** to attend school to resume their classes and engage in face-to-face learning with their teachers.
- Parents and Caregivers of students in Years 11 and 12 are asked to contact the College Administration Office if your child is **not** able to attend school due to individual circumstances. This will allow us to ensure alternative learning arrangements are put in place. Please use this form [Term Two Student Attendance Form](#) to advise the College. This same form is also available on the College Website [www.olmca.wa.edu.au](http://www.olmca.wa.edu.au).



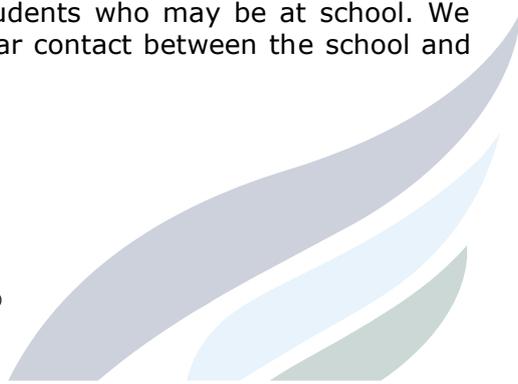
## **YEAR 7 – 10 STUDENTS**

- From the start of Term Two, Parents and Caregivers with children in Years 7 to 10 **may choose to keep their children at home** to engage in the College's flexible Remote Learning model. This approach particularly allows Parents and Caregivers who are engaged in essential services or who are required to maintain employment to send their children to school if they are unable to care for them at home.
- Should Parents and Caregivers choose to send their children in Years 7 to 10 to school, these students will engage in the same mode of learning being provided to students learning from home. Our Lady of Mercy College will provide appropriate supervision and support to enable them to engage in Remote Learning but will not provide face-to-face teaching for students attending school in person. This will ensure that our teachers are able to devote their entire focus upon producing relevant quality learning experiences and are able to interact with and respond to their students in a timely manner.

## **STUDENTS ATTENDING SCHOOL**

- Parents and Caregivers of students in Years 7-10 need to advise the school if your child will be attending school from Wednesday 29 April. This is necessary to ensure appropriate plans are in place to comply with the Department of Health's physical distancing advice. It also ensures the school is able to make appropriate arrangements for student supervision while ensuring teaching and learning continues. Please use this form [Term Two Student Attendance Form](#) to advise the College. This same form is also available on the College Website [www.olmca.wa.edu.au](http://www.olmca.wa.edu.au).
- Medically compromised students are asked to remain at home until they receive a medical clearance to attend school. The capacity remains for these students to engage in Remote Learning.
- Parents and Caregivers are not permitted on school property other than to drop off or pick up their children, at which time they must not exit their vehicle. If Parents and Caregivers are walking their children to and from school, they should undertake their drop off or pick up at the gates to the College. Parents of students with a disability who may require other arrangements to be facilitated are asked to contact our Learning Support Coordinator, David Mazza via email [David.Mazza@cewa.edu.au](mailto:David.Mazza@cewa.edu.au).
- Assemblies, excursions, interschool activities and school-based co-curricular activities will not recommence until advice is received from the Department of Health that it is safe to do so.
- The Café will continue to operate; however, the menu is likely to be modified.
- The school will continue to ensure that environmental cleaning practices are in place, with enhanced routines where necessary.
- Students will be required to continue with the hygiene practices put in place in Term One and will need to follow the physical distancing measures that are needed to ensure the safety of all students and staff.
- The Uniform Shop will be open from 7.30am – 12.00pm on Tuesday 28 April.

I wish to reiterate that during this period, our staff will continue to ensure we best support our students' learning from home, as well as those students who may be at school. We acknowledge that it will be important to maintain regular contact between the school and Parents and Caregivers.



At this difficult time, I wish to reassure every Parent and Caregiver that the ongoing enrolment of every child in our school is guaranteed. I encourage Parents seeking financial support arrangements to discuss one of the following options, which are immediately available to all families with children in Catholic schools;

- The Centrelink Health Care Card Discount Scheme provides an automatic fee concession to the holders of eligible means-tested family concession cards. **This discount applies to all year levels from Kindergarten to Year 12.** Additional financial considerations are also available depending on each family's circumstance.
- For Parents and Caregivers who do not qualify for the Health Care Card discount, but who are experiencing financial difficulties, arrangements can be made to provide immediate support to assist you with tuition costs.

We want to assist you in every way possible to continue your child's enrolment at Our Lady of Mercy College. It is critical that you make contact with our Finance Officer, Michelle Williams on (08) 9720 3302 or [Michelle.Williams@cewa.edu.au](mailto:Michelle.Williams@cewa.edu.au) so that we can put in place financial support arrangements to enable your child's ongoing education at our school.

Any arrangements which are made between Parents and our school will remain **confidential.**

I will keep you updated with any new information as it becomes available.

Regards,



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**Rob Crothers**  
**Principal**

