

*The Wisdom  
of the Lord Teaches us*

# Mary MacKillop College

## Newsletter

Term 2  
27 April 2020



*"So great is the  
strength we possess  
in our unity".*

*Mary MacKillop  
1874*

Newsletter on our website  
[www.mackillopleongatha.catholic.edu.au/newsletter](http://www.mackillopleongatha.catholic.edu.au/newsletter)  
also available on the College Parent Portal - PAM

### MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING PRINCIPAL

#### *This Weeks Prayer*

**O God, our ruler and guide,  
in whose hands are the destinies of this and every  
nation,  
we give you thanks for the freedoms we enjoy in  
this land  
and for those who laid down their lives to defend  
them:  
We pray that we and all the people of Australia,  
gratefully remembering their courage and their  
sacrifice,  
may have grace to live in a spirit of justice,  
of generosity, and of peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen**

They shall grow not old,  
as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them,  
nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun  
and in the morning  
We will remember them.

As Term 2 begins and the COVID-19 virus continues to require social distancing practices we acknowledge the many challenges facing families, students, staff and the broader community. The College community can be assured that the staff will do their utmost to support students in navigating the thrills and spills of our remote learning environments.

I want to thank and congratulate the students, families and staff on their enthusiasm and willingness to adapt so quickly to the new context.

From the home perspective, I hope the experience over the first fortnight has been positive overall. I appreciate that getting things up and running on last Wednesday morning had its challenges, but my sense is that things are settling, and routines are being established.

I would like to assure all in our community of the value of the Remote Learning Program being rolled out by the College. I know there is an avalanche of 'information' and commentary coming from a range of sources in the mainstream media and social media at the moment in relation to schools and online learning. Some it is interesting and indeed helpful but other parts lack accuracy or a sound educational basis. The Remote Learning Program at Mary MacKillop, while requiring monitoring and evaluation in the early days, is based on what the research is telling us, what authorities are advising us, our collaboration with other schools, as well as the vast experience of our own team of professional teaching staff.

The current learning environment impacts not only on the academic program but also the wellbeing of our students and their families. The isolation from friends and the normal routine can raise levels of anxiety for some and that may in turn add stress to the family household. The College has made available to students and families a range of excellent resources and we are continuing to provide opportunities for online support through your child's Homeroom Teacher, Sub School Directors, Wellbeing Coordinators and College Counsellors. Please encourage your child to make contact with one of the Wellbeing Team if you feel it would be of benefit.

It was Benjamin Franklin who once stated, "Well done, is better than well said." Our ultimate aim with the Remote Learning Program for however long it lasts, is to put into action the plans we have created so that they are effective in generating positive learning and wellbeing outcomes for our students. I look forward to working in partnership with you, the parents and carers, to achieve that aim over the coming weeks.

**Kieran O'Dwyer**

**Acting Principal**



*"So great is the strength we possess in our unity" - Mary MacKillop 1874*

## FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL - WELLBEING AND ORGANISATION

In this situation we find ourselves with COVID-19 changing rapidly, it is an ideal time to look at the routines your child can establish at home to help them feel less anxious in times of unpredictability.

Setting up a routine benefits your child's mental health and wellbeing, but yours too. Importantly, a routine helps decrease anxiety and increase comfort. This is essential for any child, regardless of age.

With the move to remote learning, a routine will help to set your child up for success at home and can help to maintain family peace.

Here are some tips on how to structure their day in these uncertain times.

### **Stick with a daily routine**

Have a wake-up time and a bedtime, and (where possible) stick with these, especially on the weekdays. Have meal times around the same time every day. Not only does this give boundaries to the daily routine, but having a set wake up time and bedtime can have great benefits for the quality of your sleep.

### **Be realistic**

Make a list of the things that your family usually does during the week. Then work out what you can sensibly keep as part of the daily routine, what can be modified and what can be 'let go' for now. When working on the weekly schedule, make time for the things you often look forward to, such as movie nights or Taco Tuesday.

### **Set a work-from-home routine**

Consider chunking work time into small regular sessions (e.g. 30 minutes and then a break), or a large session during the day and free family time afterward. How this works can be a family decision, but once you have scheduled in work time stick with the plan, as this is now part of the routine.

### **Exercise daily**

Build exercise time into each day. This could be at the start, middle or end of the day – or your child could have several bite size exercise times during the day.

### **Set time for play**

Play is an essential part of any day, regardless of gender. Free play time could include games, creative play, kicking the footy, listening to music, having a chat or calling a friend.

### **Manage screen time**

Inevitably, each family will be using screens, particularly for work and schoolwork. As a family, it is ultimately up to you to decide how long you use screens. By including outside time and play time/free time throughout the day, this will help to minimise unnecessary screen time.

For teenagers, free time could include use of their phones. We would recommend you allow this, but with some parameters. For example, your son's phone and laptop should not be in their rooms at bedtime. They should leave them with you, and get them back at breakfast time.

### **Make alone time**

It is important to have time each day where you are not on top of each other. We recommend that each family plan sometime in the day where you each have your own alone time.

### **Make time for fun**

Make time for magic moments together. Although the current situation can be stressful, this is also an opportunity to spend more time together and create some special memories.

This could be as simple as sharing stories your kids haven't heard before, building something together, pitching a tent in the backyard, painting a mural on your garden fence or toasting marshmallows.... the only limit here is your imagination!

### **Be kind to yourself**

We will get through this together!

These are all suggestions and can be changed to suit your family. The key with routine is simply just to stick with it. This does not mean following it precisely to the minute – flexibility is everything. However, on a day when you all need to be more relaxed, try at least to stick with the order.

**Kieran O'Dwyer**  
Deputy Principal  
Wellbeing and Organisation



## FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL - TEACHING AND LEARNING

We are now two weeks into Remote Learning, and what a learning experience it has been. I am so proud of all our students and staff who have embraced our new mode of teaching and learning.

Remote Learning has given all students the opportunity to demonstrate the four pillars of our Learning Framework. Over the course of the two weeks we have been engaged in remote learning, we have seen students **"Taking Ownership"** of their learning, through their use of Simon, accessing class notices and just continuing on with their learning. Students are **"Making Connections"** they have been reaching out to teachers to check in for homeroom, emailing classroom teachers when they need to seek clarification on a task, also while connecting the content from one lesson to the next. We also encourage students during this period of social isolation to reach out to their friends, and keep in touch with one another. Students have demonstrated **Thinking Deeply** as they challenge themselves to be active learners engaged in remote learning, to remain focused and on task, and to build on their subject knowledge as independent learners. All of these elements show our students have embraced remote learning and are **Being Courageous!**

As teachers we have been asking students to submit one piece of work for each lesson. I want to take this opportunity to clarify the reason why we are asking students to upload their work at the end of each lesson. Students submitting their progress on the task at the end of each lesson allows us as teachers to :

- \* know how our **students are managing** with the work
- \* **what they are up to** in their work
- \* if they are **attending class** and
- \* how **we can best help** them

We recognise that not all students learn at the same rate, and what may take one student 50 minutes may take another student more or less time. We ask that students submit where they progressed to in the task, in the normal allocated 50 minute lesson time. If the work is not completed that is ok.

One of the issues that has arisen as a result of our move to remote learning is our use of emails. Many students have not been monitoring their emails, and as such their inbox is full. I encourage all students to make sure they are deleting any old emails they no longer need, but to also ensure that they empty their deleted items to free up space on their email account. If they need assistance with this or any other IT related problem students are encouraged to contact Amardeep at the College on [pamardeep@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au](mailto:pamardeep@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au).

There is a lot that is working really well with remote learning, and we have seen staff take on the challenge of learning new technologies and embracing those technologies in their teaching. As always when we reflect on how we are going with things, we look at what is working and well and what we can do to improve. As the term progresses we will continue to look at ways to improve how we do remote learning. In the meantime, students must ensure that they access the class notices, and read the instructions. Students may also find it beneficial to print the class notices, and read and go through the information highlighting what they need to do prior to contacting their teacher for clarification. Students should also be checking their emails regularly through the course of the day and making sure that they reply to any emails from their teachers in a timely manner.

### Senior School Students

There has been lots in the media about the effects of remote learning, and what this means for our Senior School students. I want to re-assure the Senior Students that we have their best interests at heart and want to ensure that they all succeed in their final years of schooling.

### VCE Students

VCAA has confirmed that the GAT Test will be moved from June to October or November, and End of Year exams will be postponed until at least December. Universities will be asked to delay the start of the 2021 University Year to account for impacts of coronavirus on Senior Secondary Students.

The end date for Unit 1 and Unit 3 subjects has been extended to 26 June 2020 in recognition of the disruption to the end of Term 1 and the move to remote and flexible learning in Term 2. **As Unit 3 is in the process of delivery there will be no changes to the teaching and assessment program as outlined in the Study Design.** VCAA are currently reviewing all VCE Study Designs, with a particular focus on Unit 4, to reduce, where possible, school-based assessment tasks to relieve some pressure on students as they move to remote and flexible learning arrangements.

## FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL - TEACHING AND LEARNING

### Assessment

The College is currently reviewing and planning how remote learning will impact on the delivery and management of School Assessed Course Work. Plans are in place to resume SACS as soon as possible to avoid a heavy assessment period for Senior School Students. We are currently drafting a SAC Calendar, and making arrangements for SACS to be delivered remotely as authentic and reliable measures of student achievement. We are currently assessing which school based assessments can be delivered remotely, and those needing to be completed on site in recognition of their practical nature and the facilities required for an authentic assessment. On-site assessments will need to be prioritised with appropriate timetabling and arrangements to ensure adherence to social distancing measures. Further information is being posted home to families in the Senior School.

### VET Students

Those students undertaking a VET class at Gippsstafe or Apprenticeships Group Australia (AGA) have also had their courses move to remote learning. Any offsite VET student who still needs access to Zoom to participate in their course should contact Amardeep to arrange a time to come into the College to have the application installed.

### VCAL Students

VCAL students will have more time to complete their courses and this will be consistent with the revised dates for VCE. There will be no change to VCAL content or assessment. Structured workplace learning is currently on hold, and we will review this decision towards the middle of May.

We have also included some tips for parents in this newsletter on how you can assist with remote learning as parents. We welcome any feedback you have on remote learning. If you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing during remote learning, please reach out to the relevant Sub-School Director, Wellbeing Leader or their Homeroom Teacher.

### Junior School

|                 |                 |  |
|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| Acting Director | Chris Spencer   | <a href="mailto:cspencer@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au">cspencer@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au</a> |
| Wellbeing       | Georgia Townley | <a href="mailto:gtownley@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au">gtownley@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au</a> |

### Middle School

|           |               |  |
|-----------|---------------|--|
| Director  | Gerard Gordon | <a href="mailto:ggordon@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au">ggordon@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au</a> |
| Wellbeing | Kate Dwyer    | <a href="mailto:kdwyer@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au">kdwyer@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au</a>   |

### Senior School

|           |              |  |
|-----------|--------------|--|
| Director  | Bron Croatto | <a href="mailto:bkalos@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au">bkalos@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au</a>     |
| Wellbeing | Cade Maskell | <a href="mailto:cmaskell@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au">cmaskell@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au</a> |

We have a number of resources on our website regarding remote learning, including our Remote Learning Handbook. If you have concerns about your child's academic progress or about remote learning, please do not hesitate to contact me on [jconnell@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au](mailto:jconnell@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au)

Finally, just a reminder that the College is open and students who are not able to access Remote Learning from home due to internet issues can attend the College for the normal school day to complete their work. College buses are running. Parents need to advise the College of the days their child will be attending via the survey link emailed to parents.

**Jodie Connell**  
Deputy Principal  
Teaching and Learning





# How to help your child if they get 'stuck' while remote learning

*As teachers are working out the best ways to assist your children with their learning, there remains times when your child gets 'stuck' with their work and is struggling to solve a problem.*

## Ask your child, "how can I help you?"

It may help to write it down, as they put their struggle into their own words.



Ask your child  
to show you what  
they are doing?

Take the time to read through it carefully. They might find this a good time to have a drink of water

## TAKE A BREAK



If they are agitated, send them outside for fresh air, a walk, a bike ride or to blow bubbles until they feel more relaxed.

## Ask Questions

*Some questions which may help your child are:*

How can we break the task into smaller steps?

What parts of the task are easiest to do?

What are the important words in the question, do you know their meaning?

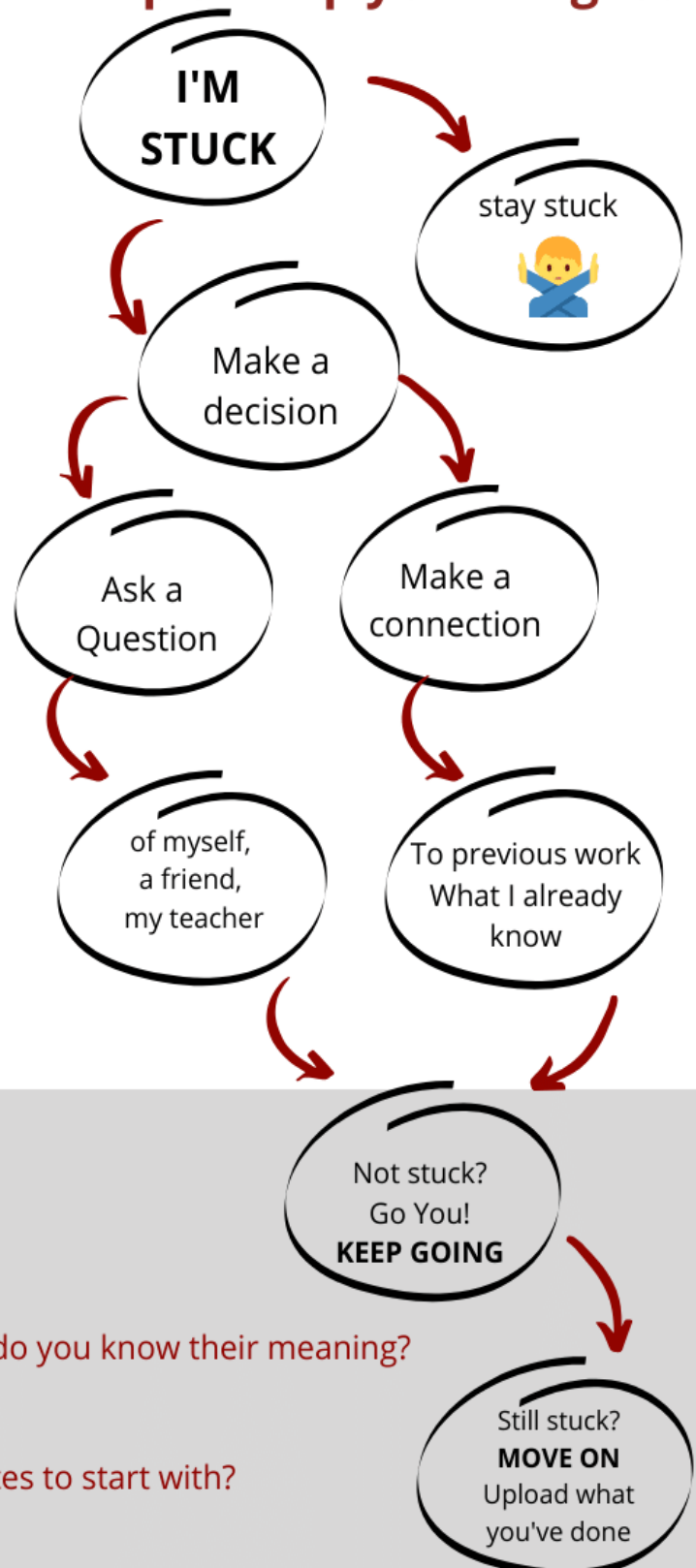
What is one thing that you can start with?

What if I time you and you just write for 5 minutes to start with?

Who would be able to help you with this?

What can you go on with while you are waiting for a response?

## A map to help you navigate





## FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

### CATHOLIC IDENTITY AND MISSION



This week our College has celebrated ANZAC day very differently. Our College Executive and College Captains took part in a moving liturgy for ANZAC day filmed in the College Chapel. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who served and those who continue to serve our nation so blessed. Please take time to go online at via the College SIMON, PAM, Facebook or Instagram platforms to see the 2020 ANZAC liturgy.



Prayer is an important part of our Catholic tradition. Sharing the scripture and proclaiming God's word, is an integral part of whom we are as a Community. Hints for setting up a prayer space at home:

There are lot's of ways to choose and organise the prayer activities in your prayer space. You could choose prayer activities to fit with a particular session or event (eg: advent, a sporting event, exams). You could choose prayer activities that blend around particular themes of even school values or school topics (eg: self-image, thankfulness).

What's important is that you choose your prayers activities carefully.

Try this week's idea to help you set a prayer activity at home.

**Equipment:** Cardboard, string or clothes horse, pens, pegs

**Set-up:** Find somewhere to hang your Big Questions

**Instructions:** Imagine God is sitting in the room with you

Think for a moment. If you could ask God one question right now, what would it be?

Write your Big Question onto the cardboard and peg it up

If you want to you can talk with others in your house about your Big Questions.

**John Ryan**  
Deputy Principal  
Catholic Identity and  
Mission







Presents..

**VIRTUAL**

**P.E**

**SESSIONS!**

**MEET YOUR P.E  
INSTRUCTORS**



STACEY

MIA

JACQUE

**LIVE TO YOUR HOME FREE**

**JUNIORS 5-10YRS: MON, WED, & FRI**

**SENIORS 11-17YRS: TUE & THURS**

**TIME: 11AM**

**HOW: LIVE CLASSES THROUGH  
OUR MAIN FACEBOOK PAGE**

**WHY: TO KEEP YOUR KIDS  
ACTIVE DURING HOME SCHOOL**



**WONTHAGGI | LEONGATHA | WARRAGUL | MOE**

**'Not just a gym...A CLUB'**

Virtual PE Classes are running @voyageleongatha will be running classes starting next week

11am on Tuesday and Thursday for 11-17 year old students through their Facebook straight to them at home

### ATTENDING SCHOOL SURVEY

We are able to provide supervision at the College for students who are unable to be supervised at home due to having additional needs or parents who are essential service workers.

We will be asking those families who need to send their children to school to complete a survey each week indicating the days of the following week that their child/ren will be attending school.

An email was sent to parents/guardians on Monday 20th April for the Week 3 Survey (27/4 to 01/05), if you are wanting your child/ren to attend school next week please check your email and complete the survey by 9am Thursday 23rd April 2020.

### YEAR 7 - 2021 ENROLMENTS

Unfortunately we are cancelling our Grade 6 Day and Information Sessions this year. We are working to put together a remote information video for prospective parents and families to access.

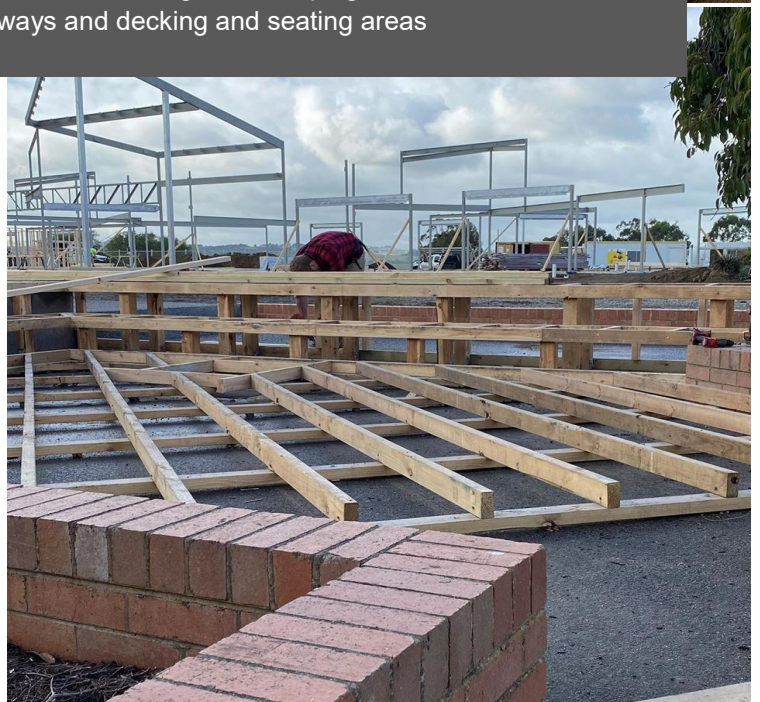
Enrolments for Year 7 2021 are open and will close on 31 May 2020. Enrolment forms can be downloaded from our website, or we can post one to you.

If you have any questions please contact our Registrar - Carly Kitchingman on 03 5662 4255 or email [ckitchingman@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ckitchingman@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au)





More building site progress, framing has started on the new building. Landscaping continues as well with the addition of more concrete pathways and decking and seating areas



7E'S  
WHIRLIGIGS!

7E have been learning about separating mixtures. One method of separating a mixture is to use a centrifuge. Some countries cannot afford a centrifuge machine. Instead, they use a paperfuge which cost about 20c to make.

Small vials can be stuck to the paperfuge to help separate blood samples which are used to test for things like Malaria. 7E students have had a go at making a whirligig today which inspired the paperfuge. Getting it to spin really fast is the challenge to make it work best. I think they have done an amazing job.

Well Done !





*Challenging the World*

Tournament of Minds is a problem-solving program for teams of students integrated across Year Levels from 7-10. The Tournament's aim is to enhance and develop diverse skills, enterprise, time management, and the discipline to work collaboratively within a challenging, creative and competitive environment. It is an extra-curricular program that involves participation outside of our normal school timetable and weekends.

The College participation in the 2019 program was very successful, three of our four teams reached the State Final after much dedication and hard work. There are four disciplines or learning areas that teams compete in: Arts; Literature; STEM and Social Sciences. Students are invited to join the program with a preference for a discipline however teams are formed based on team strengths.

This is still going ahead in 2020 and students are invited to join a combine team of seven students to compete. It is expected that the Tournament program will be amended for this year. You can find out more information or sign-up by emailing the program coordinator [rmuranty@mmcrc.catholic.edu](mailto:rmuranty@mmcrc.catholic.edu)

I encourage students from Years 7-10 to sign-up and be involved, it will be an excellent opportunity to make new friends, especially this year in our present isolation.

For more information go to the following website <https://www.tom.edu.au/>

Richard Muranty  
Tournament Co-ordinator



WE NEED  
VOLUNTEERS

**CAN YOU  
HELP?**

**MMC Parents and Friends are looking for volunteers to help in the Canteen and/or Uniform Shop. Please contact the General Office with your details.**

**Phone 56624255**

**Thank you!**



### **A new soft shell Sport Jacket is being added to our PE Uniform!**

Due to a delay in production Jackets will not be available until Term 2.

The cost of these will be approximately \$90.

Any student waiting for a College Sport Jacket may wear their own Jacket for sport until the new ones arrive.

### **ATTENTION ALL PARENTS**

#### **Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund payment arrangements**

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card as at the 28th January 2020 are eligible to apply for a payment of \$225, which will be paid directly to the College to be used towards camps, sports and excursion costs.

Application forms to be completed and lodged with schools. However, the schools will be able to accept and process applications up until 26th June 2020.

Regular payment runs will occur throughout terms one and two.

Families wishing to apply for the payment should visit the CSEF website at [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef) and download an application form, complete and return to school by 26th June, or alternatively pickup an application form from the College office.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the College Office on 5662 4255.

### **BUS PASSES**

A decision has been made to suspend the ability to issue new bus passes for irregular travel for the immediate future in response to the ongoing COVID-19 situation. This is designed to minimise the mixing of students who normally wouldn't be in the same immediate vicinity.

We understand that there may be cases of absolute emergency where a student needs to travel to an alternative place of accommodation, and in these situations we will do our best to support these families. Please contact the College if this is required.

Bus passes for students who are getting off at a different stop on their normal bus will still be available.