



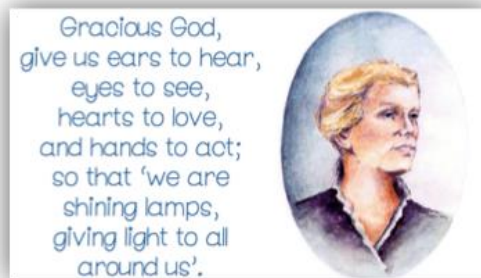
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

## **COVID-19 Update No. 9.**

(COVID-19 Update No. 10 will be emailed during the week beginning Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May).

Update No. 9 provides information to ensure the transition back to St Mary's is as smooth as possible.



Pope Francis, the leader of the Catholic Church is not afraid to challenge the status quo within the Church and across all levels of society. His words are often so wise and so pertinent for the times we live in, *"we should hold on to the memory of what is now transpiring - the increasing restrictions on daily life and use this memory to examine our priorities."*

Well, we now have clarity around the return to school dates for both primary and secondary students, which is good for their (and our) minds and hearts. Following advice from the Chief Health Officer, the Victorian Government and the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) St Mary's can

begin a phased return to onsite schooling. May we all look forward to the slow return to normality.

Before outlining the staged return to school, I take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in this transition. It has been a difficult period for teachers, students and families as we have all adjusted to new ways of learning and teaching. We have been inspired by the commitment and energy shown by our College community in educating our students, and this is reflected in the innovative and creative ways we have come together to ensure continuity of education. It certainly does take a village to raise a child.

### **Three Cheers to all at St Mary's**

The efforts by staff to ensure students received support have so often been and continues to be extraordinary. The meetings; the changes; the adaptations; the phone calls and on it goes. Thank you parents and guardians for your support during these past weeks of remote and flexible learning. For many it has not been easy but together much has been achieved. And to our students who have shown great resilience and adaptability during remote learning. They should be commended for their efforts during what has been an unusual and difficult time. Yet from little things big things grow and students have grown in their understanding of what they are capable of and what they have achieved.

### CECV and Victorian Government Return To School Operational Guidelines Term 2 2020

Content	Action
Student Free Day	To support all school staff to prepare for this transition, Monday 25 May will be a student-free day. <b>There will be no home learning or students attending school on this day.</b>
Foundation; Yr1 and Yr2 Students	In the <b>first stage</b> , students in Foundation, Grade 1 and Grade 2, will return to school from <b>Tuesday 26 May</b> for face to face learning. <b>There will be no remote learning for Foundation to Yr2 students from 25 May.</b>
Yr3-Yr10 students	In the <b>second stage</b> of our return to onsite schooling, Year 3-10 students will return to school from <b>Tuesday 9 June</b> for face to face learning. <b>There will be no remote learning for Yr3-10 students from 9<sup>th</sup> June.</b>
Public Holiday	<b>Monday, 8th June</b> is the Queen's Birthday public holiday.
<b>Unsupervised/vulnerable children – 26 May to 5 June</b>	<p>For those students who cannot be supervised at home and vulnerable children, the existing model of onsite schooling will remain in place during the two-week period from Tuesday 26 May to Friday 5 June.</p> <p>The current process that we are using to enable parents and carers to indicate the days or part-days for which onsite schooling is required will continue for this two-week period.</p> <p><b>Application forms are available by contacting the Office. The application form <u>must be into the Office by 3.15pm every Thursday for the following week.</u></b></p> <p><b>This is critical as the Office requires this accurate information to organise the weekly minimum supervision roster.</b></p> <p><i>With the initial re- introduction for F-2 students, if Year 3 -10 students can remain home from the 26 May to 5 June it would help greatly.</i></p> <p><b>All other students in Year 3-10 will continue learning from home until Friday 5 June.</b></p>
Attendance	<p>Once a year level has returned, all students will be expected to attend school as normal. This means if you choose to keep your child/children home after their year level has returned to onsite schooling, the College can no longer support their learning from home. <i>This does not apply to children who need to be absent for health or medical reasons.</i> For those families, please contact the class or Homeroom Teacher so appropriate plans can be implemented.</p> <p>Daily absences must be reported via PAM or by phoning the office.</p> <p>If your child is ill or is feeling unwell, they must not attend school. They must remain home and seek medical advice.</p>
Uniform	Winter Uniform on return.
Social Distancing	<p>While the Chief Health Officer has advised that students will not be required to maintain physical distancing at school, there will be changes to some of our operations at the school. These will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents are not to congregate at drop off and pick up times and only enter the College grounds if necessary. <b>If we are complacent then we create unnecessary risk for ourselves and others.</b></li> <li>• No large gatherings, such as assemblies.</li> <li>• Restrictions on access to the school site for anyone other than immediate school staff, students and essential contractors.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff to continue to adhere to social distancing requirements.</li> </ul>
Hygiene	To support the health and wellbeing of all students and staff, our school will continue an enhanced cleaning routine and will encourage frequent handwashing and hand sanitizing.
Lunch & Recess Times	Students will as far as possible stay in their cohorts F-4; 5-6; 7-10
Drink Bottles & Bubblers	All students are required to bring a personal drink bottle. Drink bottles are not be shared between students. Taps are available for students to fill their individual bottles. Bubblers will not be in use.
Canteen	There will be changes to the canteen arrangements when students return to school. These will be advised in <i>COVID-19 Update No. 10</i> .
Library	The library will be used for staff for recess and lunch breaks, therefore not open for students during lunchtimes and available for students and teachers for borrowing resources on Monday, Tuesday and Fridays.
Staff Attendance	Staff who are in the <i>Medical Officers At Risk Category</i> may be working from home until further notice.
If there is a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19	The College will contact DHHS and CECV to enact <i>Established Procedures</i> .  <i>Close Contact</i> is defined as (1) 15 minutes face to face contact and or (2) shared a closed space for more than 2 hours with <u>someone who is a confirmed case</u> . Unless there is a staff member or student in one of the above two categories there is no further action required.
Borrowed Chromebooks	The Chromebooks loaned to some of our primary students during our period of at home learning need to be returned to the College when school returns. A staged return of the borrowed Chromebooks is being planned. Our Business Manager, Mrs Felicity Melville will email relevant families directly with the finalised arrangements for their return.
Semester One Reports	Students F-10 will receive their Semester One report in the final week of Term Two. Parent Teacher Progress meetings will be held in Term Three.
<b><i>These guidelines are subject to CECV changes.</i></b>	

The decision to return on the 26 May (F-2) and 9 June (F-10) has been taken on the basis of the best health advice available. More information about the return to school and coronavirus (COVID-19) can be found on the CECV website, which will continue to be updated: [www.cecv.catholic.edu.au/Coronavirus-information-for-parents](http://www.cecv.catholic.edu.au/Coronavirus-information-for-parents).

I conclude with the recent reflection from Mrs Glenn, the P&F President regarding the Mother's Day Stall, *"The P&F ran our COVID-19 friendly Mother's Day Stall over the last two weekends, the response was great, the children were very excited to still be able to purchase for their Mum's, Grandma's & Special People in their lives. We had approximately 180 people through the stall. The stall would not have been possible without Megan Lomax and Stacey Cox, special thank you to Nicole Towt and Regina Schaefer for giving up 4 hours one Saturday, thank you also to my mum Bev Stray, Bree Clydesdale, Kellie Graham, Kate Loweke & Eric Loweke for assisting with the stall. We also need to thank Rose Farrugia, Evie Parker, Local Candle Co and Sara Stray for their generous donations."*

The strength of St Mary's is seen in the commitment that is given by our students, staff and the many parents and grandparent and guardians who come together for the common good of all within the College community. Thank you for your continued support and patience during this time. We look forward to welcoming students back to the classroom. Blessings on those who are slowly but surely returning their businesses to eventual normality.



### **Live Facebook Information Session for 2021 Enrolments**

Wednesday 27 May 7.00pm - 7.30pm followed by a Q&A. Please inform any parents who you may know are considering St Mary's for their child(s) education.

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarysseymour/>

Best wishes

**Wayne Smith**  
**Principal**

*DipEd(ACU) DipRed(ACU) BEd(ACU) GradCertEdAdmin(Edith Cowan)*  
*GradDipRed(ACU) MEdAdmin(Charles Sturt) MTheoSudies(BBITAITE)*