



St Norbert
College

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GOOD WORKS

6 May 2022

COVID Update – Parents

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Term 2 has commenced with much energy and a refreshing sense of enthusiasm amongst our staff and students. The recent developments have added an optimism towards school based activities and operations that we haven't experienced for some time.

Further to my communication on Monday 2 May, I would like to provide you with additional information about our school operating guidelines within the current COVID-19 baseline setting. I have included access to an information sheet from Catholic Education WA which provides details of a broad range of matters pertaining to school operation. This document can be found on our College website or by clicking on this link;

<https://www.norbert.wa.edu.au/guide/>

I would however, like to inform you of some of the more specific operational matters and the College decisions based on the recent move to 'baseline settings'.

- **Year Level Homerooms**

Since the beginning of the year, the high caseload guidelines advised that schools refrain from mixing students from different year levels. This impacted our vertical homeroom structure and so we made the decision to operate in year level homerooms. This restriction has been eased however, in consultation with staff and students and with the impending reporting period commencing soon, we have decided that we will revert to our normal homeroom structure (mixed years from 7 – 12) at the commencement of Term 3.

- **School Based Activities**

Sadly, one of the most obvious of changes due to the restrictions, was the need to cancel prominent events and activities from the College calendar. It was disappointing to cancel the College Community Mass, the Interhouse Swimming Carnival, whole College assemblies and many other important events. Whilst in a number of cases, the College showed great agility in adapting to online and alternate means. It's wonderful that many of our College events can go ahead without restrictions, starting with our College assembly on Wednesday 11 May and we look forward with much anticipation to St Norbert Day in June.

- **Access to College Facilities**

The restricted mixing of year groups also meant that we need to limit access to College facilities, such as the Fr Peter O'Reilly Centre and the Prémontre Library during break times. Students can now access these and other College facilities without year level restrictions.

- **College Physical Education Uniform**

Due to the congestion that occurs during Physical Education time, students in Years 7 – 10 were granted permission to wear their PE Uniform and College tracksuit to and from school on the days when they have a timetabled General Physical Education class.

135 Treasure Road
Queens Park WA 6107
PO Box 354 Cannington
WA 6987

T: (08) 9350 5433

E: snc@norbert.wa.edu.au

W: www.norbert.wa.edu.au

ABN: 29 781 711 208

While it would be suitable to remove this permission, the much publicized Capital Development program including the refurbishment of the Fr Peter O'Reilly Centre change rooms, is due to commence in the second half of this term. We have therefore, made the decision that this permission will remain until further notice whilst the construction takes place.

- **Mask Clarification – Returning Positive Cases**

A recent change in the guidelines around the wearing of masks following 7 days of isolation for a positive case. The most recent determination once a COVID-19 positive person has met the criteria to leave isolation, that is, they:

- have completed seven full days of isolation; and
- are no longer symptomatic of the virus,

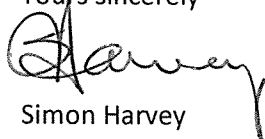
is that there is no further requirement for masks to be worn unless visiting a high-risk location or catching College buses or public transport. This differs from the previous regulation, where a COVID-19 positive case was required to wear a mask for seven days from their isolation conclusion date.

This means students who have been in isolation for seven full days while COVID-19 positive, are not required to wear masks upon their return to school classrooms, unless they choose to do so.

As stated often during this pandemic, we will continue to keep the school community updated regarding the ongoing management of COVID-19 and I provide every assurance that your child's wellbeing and safety at our school remains the highest priority for St Norbert College.

I again thank you for taking the time to read this communication and for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Harvey', written over a printed name and title.

Simon Harvey
PRINCIPAL