

IONA COLLEGE

A Catholic Boys' College conducted by The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.



19 March 2020

Dear Students of Iona,

Sometimes people believe what you say...but they will ALWAYS believe what you do. This is the time for that positive doing.

We are experiencing very challenging times that call for very positive and creative response. We absolutely acknowledge and understand that there are many areas of life (both inside and outside of school) that are affected by the current coronavirus situation. All of these disruptions are for the benefit of our wider society who have many vulnerable people within it. These disruptions will be temporary but the consequences of illness may not be.

We wanted to reassure you that your health and safety and indeed the health and safety of all remains our highest priority.

Your engagement and learning are also significant priorities and even though there has needed to be many adjustments to the routines of College life, we remain committed to you having a positive and meaningful experience at the College.

We would like to join Mr Harvey in congratulating you on the increased hygiene habits and for your application of many of the character strengths needed to thrive in these times.

School remains open because our Government has presented the expectation that they remain open in order to greater protect both you and the wider community. Iona remains committed to following official Government advice and directions in this regard.

We are all in an environment that requires teamwork, resilience and kindness in order to navigate our way through these times.

We do have high expectations that you; continue to engage in meaningful learning; be caring and kind to each other; maintain the expected behaviours of an Ionian and continue to care for yourselves and each other.

If school is asked to close, we anticipate your very best cooperation as we continue to be Ionians in a different way off campus. Your safety, learning, wellbeing and spirituality are very important to us. Please ensure that you are providing a positive presence in your families and that you take extra special care to be respectful of everyone's sensitivities.

We found the following poem expresses our hopes for you all at this time.

IONA COLLEGE

A Catholic Boys' College conducted by The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.



When this is over may we never again take for granted:

- A handshake with a stranger
- Good hygiene and care for others
- Full shelves at the supermarket
- Conversations with neighbours
- A crowded theatre
- Friday night out
- The taste of communion
- A routine check-up
- Playing sport in a team
- Playing music in a group
- Coffee with a friend
- The stadium roaring
- Each deep breath
- A boring Thursday
- Life itself.

When this ends:

**May we find we have become the people we wanted to be,
we were called to be,
we hoped to be,
and may we stay that way – better for each other because of the worst.**

Take Care and God Bless

Mr Trevor Goodwin and Fr Michael Twigg OMI