

IONA COLLEGE



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

5 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As you would be aware, the Queensland Premier has announced that from **Monday 11 May, 2020**, students in kindergarten, Prep, Year 1, **Year 11 and Year 12** will be able to return to their school and community kindergarten. For Iona College, this means as of next Monday our Year 11 and Year 12 students will be back onsite and participating in their classroom learning. Our staff look forward to welcoming them on that date.

It is expected that all students in **Years 11 and 12** attend school and we will revert back to an at school learning model rather than an 'At Home Learning' model. For our students in Years 5-10 the advice still remains that if students can remain at home they should do so. Therefore, provisions for 'At Home Learning' will still remain the only method of instruction for our Years 5-10 students. As has been the case for the past few weeks, children of essential workers as well as vulnerable children will still be able to attend school for supervision. In order to arrange the appropriate level of supervision for these children, the College will continue to send a weekly survey until all year levels have successfully returned to school.

In her announcement yesterday the Premier noted that confirmation of the return to school date for all other year levels would likely take place on 15 May 2020 and, if low COVID-19 transmission rates continue **the likely date of return for Years 2-10 (Years 5-10 at Iona) would be 25 May 2020**.

When transitioning back to our school-based learning there are a number of factors that we need to be conscious of as a community. The current decision to return to school for Years 11 and 12 (as well as Kindy, Prep and Year 1) is informed by advice provided by the Australian Health Principal Protection Committee (AHPPC) and discussions with Queensland Health about a phased return to regular schooling. A staggered return allows for us to prepare for the additional requirements for changes to routines needed to adhere to health advice.

While schools are identified as safe places for students and present low risk in relation to the spread of COVID-19, Iona College will continue to implement the following measures:

- students and staff who are unwell will be informed that they must not attend school
- physical distancing of 1.5 metres will be required of all adults
- adults will not be permitted to gather in and around school grounds, car parks, school gates and outside classrooms
- parents will be encouraged to use stop, drop and go practices rather than walking their children in and out of school
- students will engage in regular effective handwashing and hygiene protocols, including regularly washing hands with soap and water or using hand sanitiser and covering coughs and sneezes. This is possible because the College has secured an appropriate amount of resources to undertake these necessary hygiene practices

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- increased cleaning frequencies of high-touch surfaces such as light switches and door handles will occur
- technology such as video conferencing will be used for gatherings, meetings, Mass and assemblies
- the school swimming pool will remain closed and excursions, camps, trips and interschool activities will continue to be postponed at this time.

These are important measures to help keep all members of our community safe and we look forward to seeing all year levels back as soon as possible.

Without the necessity to attend school for approximately 5 weeks, we understand that some students may have enjoyed less regulation in terms of uniform and appearance.

Therefore, as they move toward returning to school, some students may need to ensure that their uniform is in order, including shoes polished and belt located. In addition, some may need to have their hair attended to and locate a lost razor. It is important that boys return clear that our expectations of them remain as high as ever.

Given the sudden end to Term 1 and the unusual start to Term 2 some parents will not yet have made arrangements to purchase items for the Term 2 Winter Uniform. Given these circumstances students are welcome to continue wearing - to the Iona standard - their Summer Uniform until the end of Week 5. Therefore, should all students return on 25 May 2020, it is expected that every student is in the appropriate Winter Uniform on that day. The operating hours for the Uniform Shop are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8am to 3:30pm.

The decision to return Year 11 and Year 12 back to school is an important step towards returning to our regular school routines. We will continue to update you as soon as any new information becomes available.

We thank all parents and caregivers for your patience and support at this time. You have all been remembered within the prayer life of the Oblates and the College.

Trevor Goodwin
Principal

Fr Michael Twigg O.M.I.
Rector