

# IONA COLLEGE



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

7 May 2020

Dear Families of Iona,

On behalf of the Oblates, I sincerely hope that everyone in your families are safe and well during these most challenging of times.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been felt by every single Iona family in some way, as indeed it has affected almost every part of our world.

We are all very pleased that our boys will all be returning soon and give enormous respect to families, staff and the boys themselves for the commitment shown to education. Every Ionian has played their role and we will be the stronger for it.

The support at this time continues the long standing Oblate tradition of being "close to the people" which is a core value of the Oblates and is demonstrated through community outreach, iCARE, pastoral visitation, visible wellbeing, classroom support, accessible fees for all working families and also fee support where needed.

This week sees the cycle of Term 2 fees being issued and it is important to see these as part of the long standing commitment to provide a quality education with a wide range of opportunities for the families of our area. We have committed to accessible fees in each era of the College.

For some families, this may be the first time in their Iona journey that they have required that support, but we sincerely encourage them to access it. Support can be accessed through [Financial iCARE at Iona](#).

The Oblates and the families of Iona share an incredible bond and relationship that remains unique within Catholic education across the country. Our Colleges (Mazenod Vic and WA) all have a community of Oblates who live within our Colleges ministering to families for every need required and this relationship has been built on trust and respect. As a means to support fees for every family in the College, the Oblates have always forgone wages in the roles they serve. We have done this for 63 years (well before any COVID-19 pandemic), and will continue to do so.

The Oblates also retain a special affection for; and care of Old Boys, and our ministry to them is for their entire life and beyond.

In many ways, this COVID-19 era presents another opportunity for that relationship to become even stronger. When the Term 2 fees arrive, I ask you to look carefully at its impact and the strong commitment you have made to your son's education. If you require support for this era, or longer term, you are encouraged to reach out to the Finance Team to work through the necessary steps to confidentially listen, understand and find the most appropriate and fairest way to support you in your current circumstances.

We also have had quite a number of families who have found a way to make a donation to the College Bursary Fund in order to help struggling Iona families. This is always welcomed and appreciated if circumstances allow.

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As a further measure of support to all families, we have initiated a discount of 10% on all purchases made for Term 2 in the Uniform Shop.

I am absolutely confident that we will come through this era strongly and even more assured that this is a community that truly cares for each other and our wider community in very real and positive ways.

Take Care and God Bless  
Fr Michael