

23rd August 2021



Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

**Re: School Closure Monday 23rd August to Thursday 2nd September**

In light of the recent announcement from the Victorian Premier, the College will be closed from Monday 23rd August to Thursday 2nd September, pending further health restrictions. If you require further information regarding the lockdown, please consult the DHHS website.

The College may continue to be accessed by vulnerable students and students of authorised workers where they will be supervised to complete independent study.

**CHILDREN OF AUTHORISED WORKERS:**

Children where both parents and/or carers are considered authorised workers who cannot work from home, work for an authorised provider and where no other supervision arrangements can be made, are permitted to attend the College. An authorised worker permit is now required for parents in regional Victoria requesting on-site supervision for their child/ren.

**VULNERABLE STUDENTS:**

Vulnerable students include:

- Children in out of home care;
- Children deemed by Child Protection and/or Family Services to be at risk;
- Any child with a disability.

To allow vulnerable students and children of authorised workers to access the College, parents/carers must contact the College Office no later than 1.00 pm the day prior to attendance to confirm eligibility and any bus travel requirements.

**TUESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST TO THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER:**

All classes, Year 7 to 12 will operate as per the **normal school timetable** (commencing Tuesday 23rd August), completing each class in the virtual space. Teachers will make class activities and tasks available to students via Google Classroom, Google Meet, SIMON or College email. Teachers will be available to assist students of all Year Levels via College email or their Google Classroom at regular timetabled lesson times. It is expected that students are prepared and ready for learning. It is also expected that the work presented by teachers is completed. Teachers will monitor class engagement for follow up when face to face learning returns. Each day will begin with a homeroom check-in at 8.50am.

**YEAR 9 IMMERSION PROGRAM:**

It is with a heavy heart to announce that we have made the difficult decision that the Immersion Program for 2021 has been cancelled. With the continued, ongoing uncertainty, the logistics for these events and the number of students and staff involved have become insurmountable. Our hope is to still offer Aboriginal education experiences to the Year 9 students during Term four. A more detailed letter to our Year 9 families will be forthcoming in the coming days.

**STRUCTURED WORK PLACEMENT, WORK EXPERIENCE, SCHOOL BASED TRAINEESHIPS AND VET:**

Please note that structured work placement, work experience, school based traineeships and VET may be impacted by the lockdown. If you have any questions about these programs, please contact our Careers and Pathways Team:

Mr Barry Norton ([bn@smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au](mailto:bn@smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au))

Ms Sherry Atkins ([sa@smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sa@smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au))

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## LEARNING ADVISOR INTERVIEWS:

Term 3 Learning Advisor interviews will take place online on the following dates and times:

**Wednesday 1st September** 5.00 pm - 7.00 pm

**Thursday 9th September** 2.00 pm - 4.30 pm 5.30 pm - 8.00 pm (no classes on this day)

Bookings may be made via PAM.

## INFORMATION EVENINGS:

**Year 10, 2022:** An online Q&A for Year 9 students and their parents/carers will be held on Thursday 9th September 7.00 pm - 8.00 pm in regard to pathway options and subject selections for Year 10 in 2022. Further information and details will be sent to families of current Year 9 students.

**Year 12, 2021:** Information regarding the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) application process and end of year arrangements for current Year 12 students will be provided to students and parents. An online Q&A will be held on Wednesday 1st September 7.00 pm - 8.00 pm. Further information and details will be shared with students and parents.

## WELLBEING, SELF-CARE AND SUPPORT:

We encourage students to take regular screen breaks, eat well, drink well, and partake in some exercise for their safety and wellbeing. At times learning may involve some physical or practical tasks. When completing set tasks, students should be both '**Purposeful**' when completing the work, as well as considering their own and others' '**Safety**' at all times.

Here are some ideas/resources you may like to access to look after yourself during this time. SMOTA Iso Wellbeing Activities can be found at <https://spark.adobe.com/page/Cofb9QA2A6jz8/>.

Keep well, keep safe and get vaccinated if eligible.

With Peace and Goodwill,



**Matt Carver**  
**St Mary of the Angels' Principal**