

# St Mary's College

*"Together We Do Good Things"*

Issue 1, Friday 11 February 2022

## *From the Principal*

We are looking forward to seeing our students back on campus next week. We extend an especially warm welcome to our new families; it has been quite an unusual way to start at a new school.

I acknowledge and thank all our staff and students who have patiently and positively engaged in the South Australian hybrid education model which saw some year levels return in Week 1 for face-to-face learning while all other year levels have engaged in flexible learning from home.

Our theme for 2022 is **Together we do good things**. I am immensely proud of my staff team as they have worked together to start the school year so well. It has been lovely to get feedback from families about the supportive communication, the care from teachers and the effort taken to create great learning spaces both at school and at home.

Through our theme we want to focus on the small everyday actions we can do together to be a warm, welcoming, and inclusive community. We want everyone to have a place at St Mary's College, where they feel valued and where their voice matters. Our theme is extended across the community. Our aim is to bring it to life amongst students, in our staff team and in our partnership with you, our community of parents and carers. When we do good things together, we live out our core purpose of contributing to a more just and compassionate world.

The experience of a global pandemic these last two years has helped us to find new ways of being community and we continue to do this daily. As we all return on Monday, our school will continue to follow the advice of SA Health to minimise the transmission of COVID-19 in our school environment. We will be diligent with mask wearing, we have sanitiser available throughout the school; we are being attentive to good ventilation; and the school is being cleaned regularly.

This means that several school activities continue to be postponed. Specifically:

- Inter-school sports competitions
- Most on school site instrumental tuition remains on hold
- Some ensembles and choirs are meeting to learn music; they are not engaged in playing or large group singing at this time
- Assemblies, masses and other school gatherings and events have been postponed
- Entry to our school site will continue to be confined to R-1 parents dropping off and picking up and essential visitors only (who will be required to wear a mask and check in using our COVID Safe QR code).

The most important control against COVID-19 impacting our school community is for your child to stay home if they are unwell. If your child displays even mild symptoms associated with COVID-19, please arrange for a PCR test and follow SA Health directions. Where your child has been confirmed as COVID-19 positive, please contact Renee Irvine [Renee.irvine@stmarys.sa.edu.au](mailto:Renee.irvine@stmarys.sa.edu.au) immediately. If we are notified that a person who attended school subsequently learns they are COVID-19 positive, we will communicate this with classroom contacts in line with the approach approved by SA Health.

If your child is absent from school due to COVID-19 or for any other reason, the school will, as is usual, make best endeavours to support their learning continuity.

Please be reminded that all children aged five and older are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, all aged 16 and older who have received two courses of the vaccine, are now eligible to receive a booster. Families are encouraged to make arrangements for your child to be vaccinated by visiting <https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/booking/>. It is wonderful to be at the stage where all students can connect with their teachers and peers in person, and we look forward to all students attending school from Monday 14 February 2022.



Should you have any queries in relation to this correspondence, please contact Deputy Principal [Lorna.starrs@stmarys.sa.edu.au](mailto:Lorna.starrs@stmarys.sa.edu.au) or our Coordinator of Admin and Operations, Renee Irvine.

Warm regards, Clare



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## *From the Deputy Principal*

### **Parking Before and After School**

A reminder when dropping off and picking up students before and after school on Franklin Street, to move to the very end of the drop off zone to allow other cars to park behind you. Therefore, they aren't forced to park in the yellow zone directly in front of the school.

Please note that the drop off zone in front of the school is exactly that – a drop off zone for a quick 2 minute drop off/pick up. If you need to come into the school for any reason, and therefore exit your car, please park elsewhere. This is to keep free this area for other parents to drop off or pick up their daughter. In light of student safety, and safety on the road for other parents/caregivers, please don't double or triple park in the afternoons; instead we ask that you drive around the block or arrange to pick up your daughter in Gray Street or further up Franklin Street.

The Council does patrol the parking areas on Franklin Street regularly.

### **UNIFORM**

Several reminders regarding uniform expectations, especially as we begin another school year, and all year levels return to campus next week:

#### **Uniform length**

The summer uniform is designed to be worn at or below knee length. Please ensure your daughter's dress hem is at knee length.

#### **Hair**

Hair needs to be natural colours. Hair that is shoulder length or longer, needs to be away from the face. Hair accessories need to be white or navy blue scrunchie, band, ribbon, or clip.

#### **Nails**

Nails need to be in their natural state or with clear polish. They need to be kept at a length that is safe for sport, yard movement, working with food and in science labs. No longer than the tips of fingers are appropriate for school activities.

Please work with the school to ensure that your child is not wearing coloured shellac, SNS or acrylics. This includes all shades of nude. Clear is fine. If they are attending a function on the weekend, nails need to be returned to their natural state for the school week.

#### **Make Up**

A moderate approach is called for and limited to a light foundation or tinted moisturiser. False eyelashes and heavy makeup can be reserved for weekend activities.

#### **Jewellery and Tattoos**

A moderate approach to jewellery that is in keeping with a formal school uniform is required. This can include a single plain, flat ring, thin, plain sleepers, or small studs and a small cross or religious medal on a chain.

Prominent facial piercings are not in keeping with a formal school uniform.

Permanent and henna tattoos must always be kept covered.

#### **Black leather lace-up shoes**

A reminder that all students are required to wear black leather lace up shoes with their summer and winter uniform. As this is for workplace health and safety reasons, this doesn't include black lace up sneakers or other variants so to prevent injury to student toes, especially given the array of subjects and activities students are involved in during the day.

### **SEQTA Engage**

A reminder to all families, that SEQTA Engage is the communication tool for parents/guardians with the school and vice-versa. Through SEQTA Engage, parents/guardians will receive updates on their daughters' learning for each subject, school reports, outline of each subject and associated tasks, and so on. If you aren't linked in, you will need a password. Please contact the Coordinator of Administration and Operations Renee Irvine - [renee.irvine@stmarys.sa.edu.au](mailto:renee.irvine@stmarys.sa.edu.au) – if you require a password to set you up or further assistance in setting up.



**Lorna Starrs**  
Deputy Principal