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Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2022 School Year at Thomas More College! It's my privilege to be able to formally welcome you to the school Year as Principal of our great school.

I enter my fourth year as Principal of Thomas More College and I am really looking forward to working with you. Perhaps 2022 is not starting as we thought it might; however, our staff and I are committed to delivering your children the best start possible over the coming few weeks. It a great year to be part of TeamTMC.

I will write again more closely to the school year, but I wanted to provide some initial information for the return to school.

You will be aware of the recent State Government decision in relation to the commencement of the 2022 school year on Wednesday 2 February. From that date Years 7/8/12 students will attend school for face-to-face learning. Connected (online) Learning will be in place for all other year levels until Friday 14 February.

The plans for teaching and learning in the first few weeks of Term 1 have been made with the safety and wellbeing of our school community in mind and with the intention of supporting learning continuity for our students. More specifically:

Monday 31 January and Tuesday 1 February 2022

Monday 31 January and Tuesday 1 February are pupil free days, providing time for staff to prepare for Term 1 teaching and learning. Monday was already planned as pupil-free day at Thomas More College.

For these dates families should please make arrangements for the care of your children as you would for any other pupil free days. For families who are unable to make alternative arrangements, your children may attend school for supervision on these dates if necessary. If you are planning to send them, please let us know as by Friday January 21 at wvilla@tmc.catholic.edu.au.

Wednesday 2 February to Friday 14 February 2022

Term 1 commences on Wednesday 2 February, at which time student learning will be supported in different formats depending on year level.

- a. **Face to face learning:** Year 7, 8 and 12 students will be expected to attend school for face-to-face learning from Wednesday 2 February. Given the newness of Year 7 and some of our Year 8 Students, we will be in contact closer to the date re. drop-off protocols to minimise the amount of families on-site. We have done this very well in the past.

Where a student who is required to attend for face-to-face learning is absent for any days in Week 1 or 2 the school will, as is usual, make best endeavours to support student learning continuity. However, as teachers will be engaged in face-to face teaching of their classes, they will not be readily available to support students who are absent from school.

- b. **Connected (online) Learning:** Year 9, 10 and 11 students will be undertaking Connected (online) Learning from Wed 2 February to Fri 14 February inclusive. We have an excellent, well-renowned TMC Connected Learning Model which we will again communicate closer to the dates.



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There has already been some early communication and laptop pickups for families. If you have missed this, please contact **ICT Manager, Angelo Anastasiadis**, via aanastasiadis@tmc.catholic.edu.au.

Vulnerable students and students whose families are unable to resolve appropriate supervision arrangements for Connected learning at home during this period, should attend school and supervision for online learning will be made available. Please let us know by Friday January 21 if you need to send your children on specific days via wvilla@tmc.catholic.edu.au.

School activities

Our school and all Catholic Education SA schools are following the advice of SA Health in order to minimise the potential for entry of COVID-19 into our school environment.

Consequently, for Weeks 1-4:

- School sports (other than Physical Education classes) and other extra-curricular activities (eg instrumental tuition, ensembles) will be put on hold.
- Assemblies, masses and other mass gatherings will be converted to online or postponed.
- Entry to our school site will be confined to essential visitors only (who will be required to wear a mask and check in using our COVID Safe QR code).

This is not the start to the school year that we were hoping for, but it is one that we will embrace as part of TeamTMC. We are well-prepared to deliver the best learning opportunities possible to our families; you are in good hands!

We will continue to provide you with information and support as we all adjust to the approach that has been adopted by our State.

All children aged 5 and older are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, and families are encouraged to make arrangements for your child to be vaccinated by visiting <https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/booking/>.

Should you have any queries in relation to this letter, please initially contact Shannon Bertram, Deputy Principal, at sbertram@tmc.catholic.edu.au.

I hope you and your children enjoy the remaining weeks of the school holidays.

Take care,

Corey Tavella
Principal

January 17, 2022