

28 January 2022

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to the 2022 school year. I hope that you are well and have enjoyed a good break. We are very much looking forward to students returning next week.

Following is some information about the return to school for all students and an update on the announcements made by the State Government on managing a safe return to school.

1. Year 7 Students

Year 7 students will start the year on **Tuesday 01 February**. On this day, school will start at **9.00am** and finish at **2.15pm**.

Students need to come in full school uniform and bring all their books. **Lunch will be provided.**

2. Full School Return

The full school will return on **Wednesday 02 February**. Timetables can be accessed on SIMON. School starts at **8.40am** and finishes at **3.10pm**.

3. Return to School Guide

With this letter, students and families will also receive the 'Return to School' guide which outlines a range of practices that the school has in place to ensure that the school is as COVID safe as possible for students and staff.

It is important that students and staff read through this before coming onsite.

4. Rapid antigen testing (RATS)

Students and families may have heard that the State Government is introducing Rapid Antigen Testing for students and staff for the first four weeks of term.

Rapid Antigen Tests will be available from the school, however, **at this stage they have not yet arrived.**

If they arrive on Monday or Tuesday families will be able to collect them from the library door (Winifred Street entrance). **We will sms if / when they are available.**

If they arrive after Wednesday, we will send the Rapid Antigen Tests home with students and notify families by sms that students have received them.

Students should get a pack of five tests in **Week 1** and another five tests in **Week 3**.

5. When and how do I do a Rapid Antigen Test?

Students should do the Rapid Antigen Test **twice a week**. We suggest **Monday** and **Thursday** morning **before school**. Tests are voluntary. Further information about the Rapid Antigen Test, including videos in 33 languages can be found at [online](#).

6. What do we do if my child tests positive?

If a student tests COVID positive:

- a) Please follow the advice as outlined at <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/rapid-antigen-tests> and ensure that the positive result is reported to the Department of Health.
- b) Isolate for seven days from the date of the positive test.
- c) Notify the school as soon as possible.

7. What if someone in our home tests positive?

As a home contact, students must isolate at home for seven days and cannot attend school. Please let the school know through normal absences procedures.

8. Notification to families of COVID positive cases in the school.

School contacts of COVID positive cases no longer need to isolate.

To assist families to monitor their children, the College will inform the community of any positive cases via PAM and email.

9. Ventilation and Air Purifiers

Ventilation throughout the College is very good and CO2 levels are regularly monitored. We have 44 air purifiers throughout the school which means that all classrooms and places where students and staff mix are well covered.

Lastly, apart from continuing to practice good hygiene and following social distancing protocols, it is important that students stay home if they are unwell.

I thank all families and students for your continued good spirit and support in navigating the challenges of the past few years. We are looking forward to a great start to the year and a really good 2022.

Yours sincerely



Christina Utri
Principal