



13 January 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers

May I start by saying thank you for your patience as we consider the best method of return for the boys and families of Villanova College. The below communication is designed to be as clear as possible in regard to the College processes over the next three weeks. While all families may be feeling a little unsure, I appeal most to our new families. If you are feeling unsure or anxious, please reach out to the College. We are not in a period of lockdown and as such if you need to see us face to face, or talk on the phone, for further explanation or understanding, please do so. A question unasked is a question unanswered.

As shared with our community last week, it has been decided by government that there is to be an adjusted start to the school year. In response we have designed a return to school plan we believe is best suited to the needs of our boys and community as first priority. As such I can give further clarity as to the specifics of the start of the year.

As background, across the period 2020 - 2021 our College community has been reliant upon Queensland Health and Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC) advice and guidance regarding health directions and restrictions that our community should follow. This advice we will continue to follow, and the health and safety of the Villanova community will be our highest priority. To this point in time all decisions relating to schools have been government legislation or directives of the Chief Health Officer. The current information shared by the Premier on Sunday, however, is a government decision and while there is responsibility to follow this decision, there is scope for making minor adjustments to the way in which that decision is enacted at Villanova College.

The Villanova College return to school timelines to respond to the predicted peak of the Omicron wave are as follows:

The following starting dates will now apply to students at the College:

- **Senior School: Year 10, Year 11 and Year 12**
 - Monday 31 January 2022 Online learning and teaching
- **Year 6, Year 8 and Year 9**
 - Monday 31 January 2022 self-directed, College supplied, core literacy and numeracy development tasks. No direct online classes. Additionally, there will be scheduled online student pastoral care "Check-ins"
- **Year 5 and Year 7**
 - Face to face learning from Monday 7 February 2022 in addition to College Welcome (further details to be provided). **No online engagement prior to this as most students are new to the College and relevant school processes.**

It is anticipated that all students will return to on campus teaching and learning on Monday 7 February 2022.



The College's teaching staff will begin their preparations from home next week for both the online and face to face learning that will commence once school returns. While students have worked from home previously, and teachers are very well equipped to teach from an online platform, this will be the first-time students have transitioned year levels online and as such I would ask for your patience and understanding with your sons and their teachers, as they navigate such things as timetable changes, class allocation and the like.

Accommodation for Children of Essential Workers

As required, the College will be providing supervision only for children of essential workers for the period Tuesday 25 January 2022 – Friday 4 February 2022. This supervision will be staffed by a small 'skeleton staff' and as such I would request your cooperation under the definitions of essential workers. To assist in our planning I would ask you to register your child as requiring supervision through the following link: [Student supervision – Essential Workers](#)

Sport and Culture

College sporting activities will continue in an adjusted format, with renewed COVID safe practices. In general terms they will be smaller in number and slighter shorter in length to reduce the likelihood of virus transmission. Director of Sport, Mr Craig Stariha and our College sporting staff will communicate specific details to those involved.

The College Musical, as a partnership event with Loreto College, will require a little more time for decisions to be made. Parents and boys involved will be informed of any changes to schedule by the Director of the Musical as these come to hand.

Calendar and Opening School Year Events

With the change in start of year dates and protocols a number of College events have been changed or moved across Weeks 1, 2 and 3. Information and advice will be forwarded to parents by the Heads of School. Some face-to-face events have been moved online so as not to clutter the latter portion of Term 1.

What is required of you and your son to be well prepared?

1. Laptop check – ensure it is in good working order, power cord has not been misplaced
2. Access to headphones – for both online and at school learning students will be accessing live lessons and flipped learning lessons. They may move through these at differing pace. Headphones then are essential for every learner during this period.
3. Stationery and supplies – ensure you have accessed the required stationery and supplies. Given there have been supply chain issues elsewhere in the community
4. Haircut, Uniform and other presentation elements – the College Uniform Shop is open, as are barbers. To avoid any issues on face-to-face return in regard to presentation please make sure these are attended to according to College guidelines.

If we have learned anything across the last few years, it is that the latest news becomes old news almost before it is written! The above is our current situation, but it may change. Please be assured that we will always look to take a calm, measured and patient approach to our responses and will always keep your child, and our staff's health, wellbeing and safety at the forefront of



our approach. If indeed we have to adjust any of these decisions due to Queensland Health or QCEC advice, we will inform you at the earliest moment.

The College Leadership Team and I will continue to keep you updated of key details relating to the start of the school year. It continues to be a pleasure to begin this journey leading the community of Villanova College.

Yours sincerely

Mr Paul Begg
College Principal

