



MARYBOROUGH EDUCATION CENTRE

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Dear Parents and Carers

Update on COVID 19

Thank you for your support of the school during this challenging time as we work towards minimising the impact of the coronavirus in our community.

Please find information below on changes to school's programs and routines:

Student Health and Well Being

Student health and well-being is central to all we do at MEC. In these uncertain times, with prolonged negative media stories many young people may be feeling heightened anxiety and worry. If you are concerned about the mental health of your child we can provide support through our dedicated Student Services team. Please do not hesitate to contact the appropriate Assistant Principal or your child's class teacher if you have any concerns about supporting your child with emotional and mental health.

Increased School Cleaning

With support from the Department of Education and Training (DET) we will be implementing new cleaning measures that will mean extended and additional cleaning through the entire school until the end of term. This will include progressive cleaning throughout the day to ensure that risks of transmission are reduced. All toilets and high use surfaces will be cross infection cleaned during the day and again after school.

Social Distancing

Staff are working with students to explain the concept and practicalities of social distancing. Obviously in a school environment, full social distancing is difficult to fully implement, however we are working with students to explain its importance and setting up classroom activities that reflect the need to maintain personal space of 1.5 metres. I ask all parents and carers to also work with their children on reinforcing the need to adhere to the principles of social distancing.

Parent Teacher Interviews and ANZAC Day Commemorations

The Parent Teacher Interviews scheduled for Friday 24 April and all ANZAC Day activities planned for on and around April 25 are cancelled.

Planning for Pre-emptive School Closures

All staff have been planning for the possibility of pre-emptive school closures. MEC works under the advice and instruction of DET and any school closure will be announced by DET. No local decision to close schools can be made by principals. If MEC is closed for this reason we are well placed to provide students with work to complete at home. The form this takes will vary throughout the school. Younger students and those in the specialist setting will primarily work from prepared hard copy worksheets and those in the older year levels will work from text books and online activities will be made available. Health and wellbeing support will also be available during any school closures for students and families who wish to access support. In the event of any school closure more detailed information will be provided to students and families.

Latest Advice from DHHS

Please see the link below for the latest advice from the Department of Health and Human Services

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>

Kindest regards

David Sutton
Principal