



30/7/21

Dear Parents/Carers

Please see below for an update on our return to onsite learning.

### **Student Health and Wellbeing**

The last 18 months have proved to be a far more challenging time than normal. The shifting in and out of remote and flexible learning, changes to mask rules and interruptions to holidays and community sport has seen an increase in anxiety and worry for many children and young people. The pandemic is a difficult experience for adults to make sense of, but it can even be more confusing for the younger members of our community. Everyone responds differently to stress and we all have moments when it is more difficult to cope. Some of our students who coped well last year with remote and flexible learning have found it more difficult this year and the reverse is also true with some of those who were challenged now finding it a little easier. A number of students have also found it hard to return to the routines of onsite schooling. All of these different reactions are valid and normal.

The uncertainty around the future of the pandemic is also causing worry for many of our students. If you feel your child needs support to work through the issues the pandemic is creating, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant assistant principal or a member of the student services team.

At MEC, we place students at the centre of all we do and we will support all young people in any way that we possibly can.

### **Parent Teacher Interviews and Student Support Group Meetings**

Due to the recent period of remote and flexible learning and the current restrictions around schools having visitors onsite, MEC is unable to run parent/teacher interviews and Student Support Groups as previously planned. In their place, MEC have allocated after school on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August, as a time for teachers to make contact with students' families via phone call or Microsoft Teams. Due to limited phone lines out of the school, Microsoft Teams is the preferred contact option with a link sent to student's email address. If you would like to nominate a time to receive a phone call or Microsoft Team meeting with your child(ren)'s teacher, please complete the survey below by 12:00 pm Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> August.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=N7Ns2Ycaz0S2mzssM0pMH5ZbtHcW139AmhSg2EV7NidUNTIwNINRSFJHQzZVVVFWSDYxNk05VzZUTCQIQCN0PWcu>

As always, the staff at MEC are open to talk about student progress or wellbeing concerns at any time during the school week.

### **COVID Restrictions**

With the return to onsite schooling, a number of severe restrictions remain in place. I ask all parents and carers to only enter the school site when it is absolutely necessary. If you do enter the site, it is vital you sign in at the foyer.

Please see the summary of restrictions below:

- Camps and excursions can now take place on the condition that the activities involve only students from MEC.
- **Non-essential visitors** should be excluded from school sites for this period.
  - **Essential visitors include** for example:
    - Preservice teacher placements
    - Staff involved in School Breakfast Clubs
    - Health and wellbeing staff
- **School tours** should not be conducted on-site for prospective students and their families at this time.
- **Kinder to prep and Year 6 to Year 7 transition programs** are not permitted at this time.

I thank the entire MEC community for the extraordinary levels of co-operation through this time. I feel we still have a way to go before we are on the 'other side' of this pandemic. Our core value of kindness has helped us get to this point and I am confident it will guide us through what is ahead.

Kindest regards and do not hesitate to get in touch,

David.