



WALK IN NEW LIFE

MATER MARIA CATHOLIC COLLEGE

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Return to School Update - 16 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a very exciting week as we welcomed each year group back for their day of classroom learning. It has been so nice to see the students arriving each morning with big smiles on their faces, happy to be back with their friends and getting back into the routine of the classroom. I am pleased to report that students are responding well to the changes and embracing the opportunity to experience face to face learning again.

Over the past couple of months, there has been much uncertainty about the health guidelines and government sanctioned restrictions that have left many feeling uneasy and unsure. In speaking with students, parents and teachers there are mixed feelings about returning to school but we all see the need to safely return to normal classroom experiences as soon as we can. That being said, we have developed a plan to gradually transition students from home-based learning back to classroom learning over the next fortnight in order to build community confidence that it is safe to be at school. We would like to thank parents for their understanding and support during this difficult time.

Assuming we are not negatively impacted by an increase in the 'COVID curve', we will have all students return to school full time from Week 6 (1 June). Below is the planned timetable for the next fortnight:

Week 4 Phase 2 (Timetable Wk 2)	Monday 18 May	Tuesday 19 May	Wednesday 20 May	Thursday 21 May	Friday 22 May
Year 7	HBL	HBL	School	HBL	School
Year 8	HBL	School	HBL	School	HBL
Year 9	School	HBL	HBL	HBL	School
Year 10	HBL	School	HBL	School	HBL
Year 11	School	HBL	School	HBL	School
Year 12	School	School	School	School	School

Week 5 Phase 2 (Timetable Wk 1)	Monday 25 May	Tuesday 26 May	Wednesday 27 May	Thursday 28 May	Friday 29 May
Year 7	School	School	HBL	School	HBL
Year 8	School	HBL	School	HBL	School
Year 9	HBL	School	HBL	School	School
Year 10	HBL	School	School	HBL	School
Year 11	School	HBL	School	School	School
Year 12	School	School	School	School	School

Week 6 (Timetable Wk 2): 1 June - 5 June

- **All students return to 5 days/week with continued social distancing measures** e.g. no whole school assemblies, Masses, excursions, rep sport etc.

As we start increasing classroom experiences, it is still extremely important for all students to continue engaging with the home-based learning on the days they are not assigned to attend school. Although students in Years 7-10 will not have formal assessment tasks during Term 2, their teachers will be assessing the potential impact this break from the classroom has had on individual students and the class overall. This will inform the classwork for the remainder of the term and address any gaps that we identify. The students' classwork completed by the end of this term along with any formal assessment completed in Term 1 will be used to assign the half yearly report grades. Our senior students are continuing a modified assessment schedule that will identify misconceptions in the work students have completed in HBL. We will continue to communicate through the 'General Observations' notifications in *Compass* if issues arise in both learning environments.

We understand that there are some students who for health reasons are considered vulnerable or are living with a family member who is vulnerable. We have tried to reach out to these families and apologise if we have missed anyone. Moving forward over the next few weeks, it will be very important for parents to contact the office if their children are not present on their allocated days to ensure that we are recording the students' attendance accurately. If you would like to discuss your family's situation or need further information about how we are providing a safe workplace, please do not hesitate to email me or request a phone call - marc.reicher@dbb.catholic.edu.au.

Please be aware, although teachers will continue to provide an outline of the content and resources taught in classes scheduled at school, the current level of support received by students during home-based learning will not be sustained once we return to face to face classes. Teachers will return their main focus on teaching the students in their classrooms.

COVID19 Response Plan -

We hope and pray that once returning to full time classroom learning, we will not have learning significantly impacted by the virus again. However, if we do, we now have many new skills and know that we can quickly transition to home-based learning, if required. I would like to assure everyone in the community that we have hygiene and social distances measures in place and have developed an action plan should we have a positive COVID19 case identified at the school. Should this occur, we will be asking our students to refrain from contacting you on their mobiles and we ask that you please wait and follow the directions of the school to ensure a safe and orderly response. We will continue to communicate with you through the **Compass** newsfeed as we have over the past couple of months. We have everyone's safety at the forefront of all our management plans.

Fee Relief - <https://www.csodbb.catholic.edu.au/learning/Fee-Relief-during-Covid-19>

We are fully aware that the COVID19 management strategies have had a significant impact on the finances of many people in our community. Please know that Bishop Anthony and the Catholic Schools Office have developed a variety of ways to support families who find themselves in financial difficulty. **Please do not consider removing your child from Mater Maria for financial reasons**, we are here to support our community and care for our students and their families. I strongly encourage families to reach out via the link above if you require assistance with fees.

We are renowned for being a supportive community and in times of tragedy and hardship that extends beyond merely providing a faith-based education. Although it may be difficult to ask, if there is anything we can do to support your family through these difficult times, please do not hesitate to make contact with me - we are here to help and there are people in our community who are keen to assist. I can assure you that your privacy will be respected with any support that is requested or provided by the Mater community.

A Message from Pittwater Parish

With the restrictions relaxed slightly, there is exciting news for our parishes this week, our Churches are open again. Father Bronek and Father Richard from Pittwater Parish have asked me to inform you that the schedule of Mass times will recommence, with a maximum of 10 people present. To find more information or to book for the Masses, please visit their website <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/pittwater/mass/normal-mass-times>

I strongly encourage families in other parishes to check their websites for how they are organising the return of parishioners in these restricted times. The links to our local parishes can be found on our College Website - <https://matermaria.nsw.edu.au/community/local-catholic-parishes/>

Please discuss these plans with your children over the weekend, so students are ready for another week of learning both at school and at home.

As always stay safe and don't hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.

Kind regards

Marc Reicher