



ISSUE # 10

1 May 2020

MC link

Merredin College Weekly Community Update



Follow us at:

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/Merredin-College-256760021333175/)

[Merredin-College-](https://www.facebook.com/Merredin-College-256760021333175/)

[256760021333175/](https://www.facebook.com/Merredin-College-256760021333175/)



Message from the Principal.....

Hello Merredin College Family

As we approach the end of week one I can't but help be a little reflective. Unprecedented, that might describe the journey we have been on but through the journey we have all found little hidden and unprecedented opportunities. We are all thinking a little differently and despite the economic and social hardship there just might be a silver lining as we move towards a new and more considerate world. The college is thrilled to have half the student population back and happy to be here – this number will increase next week. What is most essential for our students right now? To answer that the following must be considered.

COVID-19 has had an impact on our students' childhoods. What they have taken for granted and the activities that they would normally engage in both at home and at school have largely been removed. And while some of the restrictions are slowly being relaxed we really don't know how long this will continue for. Will we be able to reschedule the school ball, what about winter sports and the year 12 graduation – will the restrictions around social gathering still be in place? I can think of many other examples of missed opportunity such as excursions, camps, combined sporting carnivals, sleep-overs and how about just being able to hang out with your mates and be normal? My sister met her husband in Year 10 and they have now been married for near on 30 years - will those opportunities be lost? On top of all that parents have faced an equally scary time with the fear of job security and lost income.

Life has changed for the moment. While we need to keep all things we do and expect in perspective I believe returning to some normality is more important now than ever before. With Merredin College open and deemed a safe place we can help to provide some activity and some normality to life.

I am in awe of the amazing staff at Merredin College and the wonderful communication we have largely received from our school community when requested. This is the foundation of positive school culture. Over the last few weeks I have seen staff go above and beyond to provide all students with educational continuity under difficult circumstances. Thank you to the whole school community for working together to reach the point that we are now at.

I appreciate that times are difficult for everyone at the moment, in particular the parents of our residential students who have no choice for the moment but to keep their child/ren at home. Hopefully there will be an outcome soon for these families.

Take care
Leigh

MORNING DROP-OFFS AND PICK-UP (PRIMARY)

Drop off and pick up have run very smoothly this week, but with more students returning to school next week we have decided to have a staggered pick up at the end of the day as recommended by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee. A big thank you to our EAs and teachers who have helped each morning and afternoon this week – with escorting and supervising – to make this process so smooth and easy.

At the start of Week 2, we will be starting a staggered finish time to manage congestion. We have about 60% of primary students back at school now and expect to have most students back next week.

- Teachers will release students with Surnames A-J at 2.50pm and they will be available for pick up from this time.
- All other students, and those with secondary siblings, will be released at 3.00pm.
- Students will wait at the top of the 'Kiss and Drop' ramp for pick up and be directed down to parents by school staff.
- Parents of children that use car seats will be welcome to pull in to parking but we encourage all other parents to drive through and pick up at the ramp.
- Parents have been advised that they may need to loop through the car park and Throssell Road a few times.

This process may require some parents to loop through the car park and Throssell Road. Pick up changes have worked well so far students collected and off site by 3.10pm. We appreciate your support to help us implement these guidelines to keep our staff and students safe.

LATE STUDENTS AND COLLECTION OF STUDENTS DURING THE DAY

Primary

Students who arrive late to school will need to sign in through the main office on Woolgar Avenue and will be directed or escorted to the primary part of the campus. Parents who need to collect students during the day will also have to register at the main office and students will be sent up for pick up. We apologise for the inconvenience this may cause but these changes are based on advice from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee.

Secondary

Students are to continue signing in/out through Student Services, however this office is restricted to students only for the moment. If you wish to collect your child throughout the day please go to the main office or notify administration via phone or send your child with a signed permission note.

CANTEEN

Our P&C Canteen is up and running for Term 2 but for pre-orders only. Primary students will need to place their orders in through the baskets provided in the classroom in the morning and there will be no window sales. Parents of students in early childhood classes are asked to put orders in communication books. We will send home order bags to Primary students next week, additional bags can be requested through communication books. Secondary students are asked to drop off orders as early as possible as fresh items will be limited.

INFOCUS CAREERS NEWSLETTER - MAY

Please find latest InFocus Careers newsletter on the following link:

<http://merredincollege.wa.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/InFocus-Careers-May-2020.pdf>

Parents and carers.....

Please be ensured that here at the College we are complying with the current education department cleaning guidelines and Covid-19 rules.

- Staff are practising social distancing as much as possible.
- Hand sanitiser is available in all classrooms for staff & students.
- We have hired two extra cleaners to assist our wonderful cleaning team.
- Cleaners are wiping heavy traffic area's after recess and lunch breaks - including areas such as benches and doors.
- Playground and other play equipment is being washed daily.
- Teachers are spraying and wiping desks with anti-bacterial spray in between classes.

'Learning Close to Home'

We are keen to see some of the fun learning which has been happening at home!

Maybe you have even completed some extra activities with your parents/carers. If you have a story to tell or some happy pictures we would love for you to send them in so we can share them with others either on our website, Facebook page or in the Phoenix.

SCHOLASTIC  **Book Club**

BOOK CLUB IS HERE—Virtual Catalogue while Students Learn from Home

Doing things differently does not change our goal, that goal is more important than ever!

For the first time in the history of Scholastic— we will have a **Virtual Book Club for Term 2**

Every child will still have the opportunity to access their Book Club catalogue.

The same carefully selected, best-value books will still be available, so the enjoyment Book Club is known for will not change!

Order your books today by clicking on the following link:

<https://scholastic.com.au/book-club/virtual-catalogue-1/>

