



ISSUE # 11
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Merredin College Weekly Community Update



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Message from the Principal.....

Hello Merredin College Family

I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone as we finish week 2, whether you are in attendance at school or continuing to work from home. I would like to sincerely thank Rebecca Celenza for coordinating a wonderful virtual 2020 ANZAC Commemoration which received high praise from Regional Executive Director Neil Darby, Director General Lisa Rodgers and Merredin community members. It was wonderful to see the students shine in the commemoration and the hear the strong links to the local community. I do hope many of you enjoyed the forced sanction of spending time at home with your immediate families and took the time to be part of the Driveway at Dawn on ANZAC Day to pay your respects.

I would like to acknowledge the staff for their dedication in preparing for students working at home and setting up a range of activities to remain connected. I think everyone can agree that the staff, with support of our amazing Student Services and front office team, have been exceptional. Secondly, I would like to thank the entire school community for their understanding and support as we continue to navigate our way through this difficult period.

As we finish week 2 things are still a little unknown but I can say that the college feels much more like a school now. We have welcomed back over 400 students (70% of the student population) and I would like to acknowledge the respect parents have shown for the sanctions around student drop-off and pick-up. It is difficult to ask parents not to enter the school grounds, but our advice suggests that this is a strategy to reduce the risk for the entire school community. If your child is arriving to school late or needs to be collected early, we ask that parents call the front office to coordinate this. In addition, we also remind parents to notify the school if your child is staying home/not participating in online learning due to illness.

At this point, we will continue to not have extracurricular activities such as excursions and carnivals, but as the sanctions are hopefully lifted in the coming weeks we may see a return of some of these. We will endeavour to hold virtual events where possible. The Canteen is open as normal.

One thing that is going to be essential as we head into winter, is that if children (and staff) have even the slightest sniffle or cold, that they do not come to school. We will need to make sure we do everything possible to reduce the risk of spreading any germs and bacteria. We have commenced extra cleaning throughout the day to ensure commonly used surfaces are cleaned and sanitised and will continue this as long as needed. I am confident that we are doing all we can to maintain a safe environment for everyone.

Students working from home, can expect to be contacted by staff throughout the week and can email, or call for any support and teachers will get back to them. Hopefully WA can continue to improve and as the term progresses we will see more and more sanctions lifted so we can get back to a fully functioning school model. No doubt many of you are wanting to get back into your own sports and leisure activities also, travel to see friends and family and like me, see footy back in action.

As always, take care and do not hesitate to contact us at school if you have any questions or concerns.

Take Care

Leigh

CHICKENPOX

We have recently had some cases of Chickenpox reported within our school community. Following is some important information for parents to be aware of:

Chickenpox - A common, acute, viral infection.

Symptoms: Include fever, fatigue, and a generalised rash characterised by small vesicles (blisters) that rupture to form crusts.

Transmission: Airborne or droplet; direct or indirect contact with fluid from vesicles of an infected person

Incubation Period: Average 10–21 days

Infectious Period: From 2 days before rash appears to 5 days after, when vesicles have formed crusts.

Exclude: For at least 5 days after vesicles (rash) appear and until vesicles have formed crusts. Note that crusts alone do not warrant exclusion

Treatment: Antiviral treatment available

Immunisation: Non-immune pregnant women should see their doctor urgently as immunisation may prevent chickenpox in contacts within 5 days of exposure.

(Communicable disease guidelines 2017 Edition)

MORNING DROP-OFFS AND PICK-UP (PRIMARY)

Drop off and pick ups have run very smoothly again this week. A big thank you to our EAs and teachers who have helped each morning and afternoon with escorting and supervising to make this process so smooth and easy.

As parents are still not permitted on site, staggered finish times to manage congestion will remain in place.

- 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. We appreciate your support to help us implement these guidelines to keep our staff and students safe.

UNIFORMS-SECONDARY

As the weather is getting cooler we are seeing a many students wearing incorrect uniform. Hoodies under school jackets for extra warmth is not acceptable, Merredin College rugby jumpers are available for purchase from the uniform shop and can be used for this purpose. For girls still choosing to wear shorts to school, please ensure that they are of an appropriate length.

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS:

Tuesdays - 8.30am-1pm

Wednesdays - 11am-2pm

The Uniform shop is currently running a special of 10% discount on the following items:

- Sport jackets
- Sport pants
- Rugby jumpers
- Boys trousers
- Girls bootleg pants

IMPORTANT DATES:

29 June	School Development Day
1 June	WA Day
3 July	Last day of term

USEFUL LINKS:

Uniform Order Form:

<http://merredincollege.wa.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/2020-ORDER-FORM-T1.pdf>

Canteen Menu:

<http://merredincollege.wa.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Copy-of-2020-Canteen-Menu.pdf>

(WINTER MENU COMING SOON!!!)

Latest News

www.merredincollege.wa.edu.au

