



ISSUE # 16
19 June 2020

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Merredin College Weekly Community Update



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Message from the Principal.....

Hello Merredin College Family

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable and productive week.

Last night the College Board met for the second time this year. It was an important meeting with our Business Plan endorsed for 2020-2022. While the plan is a working document of the school, it will be made available to the school community, via hard copy in the front office and online with a link from our school webpage. The plan will be available at the start of next semester. In a productive meeting a snappy new jacket for those in the volleyball program was also approved.

Preparing for the meeting gave me time to reflect on just how busy the year has been. It has been a year unlike any other in education and it is important that we reflect as a college and see the experience as one that we can learn from and be better prepared if we need to act again. As a college we have reflected on the response to remote learning and the challenges parents have faced in supporting their children with instruction and access to materials. For many this has been significant. I am however, very excited to see further restrictions lifted allowing students to attend school camps and travel in school vehicles for excursions. As the new 'school normal' emerges please be assured that the college has daily cleaning of high touch surfaces in place and promotes excellent personal hygiene.

I was excited to see that federal government will fund an extra 39,000 university places by 2023 in a package that will restructure the amounts students have to pay for courses to encourage them to "make more job-relevant choices". Those opting for teaching and nursing would pay 46% less for their degree while a degree in agriculture would be 62% less. These are often pathways for regional students and help define course selection. It is important that through counselling processes students understand graduates from more vocationally-oriented degrees have higher employment rates. For example, those from engineering, education, health, management and commerce and information technology have rates above 75%.

This year we have 18 students on an ATAR pathway and I'm thrilled to say 9 students have already been offered university positions for 2021.

Take care

Leigh

YEAR 10-12 SCHOOL BALL 2020

We are pleased to advise the school ball has been rescheduled to Saturday, 17 October (Term 4 - Week 1). The theme will remain the same. Further information and tickets will be available in Term 3. Students are still required to maintain 'Good Standing' and excellent attendance of over 85%.

SCHOOL BUS SERVICE

A reminder to parents that they need to contact their bus driver if there is a change of arrangements for the bus service. This includes parents picking children up at the end of the day.

IMPORTANT DATES:

24 June	Cross Country
24-25 Jun	COVID-19 Testing - Round 1
3 July	Last day of Term 2
20 July	School Development Day
21 July	Term 3 Commences
3 Aug	Year 10 Course selection night

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS:

Tuesdays - 8.30am-1pm
Wednesdays - 11am-2pm

WHOLE SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY (PP - YEAR 12)

The Cross Country Carnival is being held on Wednesday, 24 June (next week) on the school oval. Please see below for race details and important information.

AGE GROUP	RACE TIME	RACE DISTANCE
6 Years & Under Girls	9:05am	1km
6 Years & Under Boys	9:20am	1km
8 Years & Under Girls	9:35am	1km
8 Years & Under Boys	9: 50am	1km
10 Years & Under Girls	10:05am	1.5km
10 Years & Under Boys	10:25am	1.5km
12 Years & Under Girls	10:45am	2km
12 Years & Under Boys	11:05am	2km
Year 7 Boys / Girls	11:15am	2.5km
Year 8 Boys / Girls	11: 30am	2.5km
Year 9 Boys / Girls	11: 45am	2.5km
Year 10 – 12 Girls	12:00pm	3km
Year 10 – 12 Boys	12:00pm	3km

Parents are welcome to come and watch your children's race. There will be an allocated area for observing and visitors will be required to stay in this area, please maintain physical distancing requirements.

Primary parents are asked to enter the school by the gate at the entrance of the parent parking, the main gate will be locked to limit foot traffic through the school grounds. Secondary parents can park in the car park on Cunningham Street and enter from that direction. Please refer to the map below for the entrance points to the school on the day.

