



IRENE McCORMACK
CATHOLIC COLLEGE
Prayer Service Justice

THE

McCORMACK

MESSENGER

Special Edition 25 March 2020

Covid Virus Update #4

This term, especially in the last three weeks, the outstanding qualities of our students, families and staff have prevailed, with the challenges that have been presented with the precautions to reduce the rate of the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

As parents, you have a choice to keep your child at home or send him or her to our school. Our current advice is that schools will be open until at least the end of term. School is a safe environment for students. We have processes in place to cater for the pastoral care and education needs of all students, both at school and at home. We are also well prepared if schools are closed.

The College has taken an approach to build our preparations around the qualities, skills and capabilities of our staff, the school routines for students and our existing communication avenues with parents. We have endeavoured to keep to school routines as best as practicable, to enable students and staff to have a framework for pastoral care and teaching and learning.

The College staff have been preparing for the eventuality that students and staff might need to work from home. This commenced in earnest for students on Monday, by the use of technology to connect with their class teacher for Care Group and all other classes during the day. Teachers are using Microsoft One-Note and Teams, Seqta and the College email system, which are familiar to all students.

We are appreciative of the many expressions of gratitude to our staff for the support given to students.

Health and Good Hygiene Practices

Please be assured that the College continues to upgrade hygiene practices for students. Daily disinfection of classroom desks and chairs, hand sanitiser is provided in more locations, particularly in the canteen area, and we are working hard to have students use social distancing practices.

We ask parents to assist by reinforcing with your child the importance of good hygiene practices. This includes keeping hands away from the face and social distancing.

We reiterate that if your child is feeling unwell in any way, please keep them at home.

Unfortunately, there is the likelihood that, in time, a College student or parent will contract Covid-19. In that eventuality, it is essential that parents inform me by email Robert.Marshall@cewa.edu.au. The report will be kept confidential.

Procedure for a student absent from school

For all absences from school, parents are required to contact the College to advise of their child's absence.

For students at home, teachers will be providing lessons for them to complete via SEQTA or Teams/OneNote.

When the College is informed by parents that students are working from home, they will not be marked absent. Without communication from parents, absent students will be marked as absent as they normally would be.

Students at home will follow their regular school timetable and need to communicate with their teacher each period.

Pastoral Care

Whilst we expect students at home to communicate with their Care Group Teachers and class teacher for each period, Assistant Deputy Principals will be monitoring student engagement with classes and will follow up with parents, if necessary, to provide support for students. Parents are encouraged to initiate contact with teachers and the relevant Assistant Deputy Principal, including for technology issues.

Requests for support from the College Psychologist may be made by email to Mrs Byrne at Angela.Byrne@cewa.edu.au

Ongoing Communication

It has become a challenge for us all to keep up with all the information about Covid -19. We will continue to publish updates in our The McCormack Messenger each Friday and provide additional updates when essential. Previous updates can be found on the College website <https://www.imcc.wa.edu.au/> by clicking on Newsletter with Covid -19 Updates.

If you need clarification about any matter, please contact:

- The respective Assistant Deputy Principals for any issues about your child.
- Mr Andrew Billingsley, Deputy Principal, email Andrew.Billingsley@cewa.edu.au for education issues.
- Mr Andrew Mawby, Business Manager email Andrew.Mawby@cewa.edu.au for College facilities and school fee issues.

You are always welcome to contact me by email Robert.Marshall@cewa.edu.au about any queries.

Family Financial Hardship

We know that we are living through an unprecedented time in our history and that the social and economic impact of the COVID-19 virus has been significant. Some parents in our College have lost their jobs and many families are facing significant financial stress.

Please see attached a letter from Dr Debra Sayce, Executive Director, Catholic Education Western Australia, regarding support for families.

Time for Reflection

The current global situation with Covid-19, arguably presents the biggest challenge to the Australian way of life since World War II.

Those who lived through that time and those in our community who have lived in countries that have suffered poverty, war or other disease would know that out of the predicament there can be better times. The brighter future comes with a willingness to make sacrifices, care for others and have faith. I hope that our College prayer can provide strength to all the members of the community, to support each other, create the brighter future and support our students to learn excellent values about life from this experience.



IRENE McCORMACK CATHOLIC COLLEGE

25 March 2020

Dear Parents

We know that we are living through an unprecedented time in our history and that the social and economic impact of the COVID-19 virus has been significant. Some parents in our College have lost their jobs and many families are facing significant financial stress. We want to assure you of a very important and simple message: **the ongoing enrolment of every child at Irene McCormack Catholic College is guaranteed irrespective of a family's financial situation.**

Catholic Education's position is very clear on the enrolment of children in all Catholic schools. No parent who wishes their child to receive a Catholic Education would be denied the opportunity to do so because of financial circumstances.

If you are worried about your financial situation and your capacity to pay school fees, the following options are **immediately** available to you:

- The Centrelink Health Care Card Discount Scheme provides an **automatic fee concession** to the holders of eligible means-tested family concession cards. This discount applies to all year levels.
- For parents who do not qualify for the Health Care Card discount but who are experiencing financial difficulties, arrangements can be made to provide **immediate support** to assist you with school fees.

We want to assist you in every way possible to continue your child's enrolment at Irene McCormack Catholic College. If you are experiencing financial difficulties, it is critical that you make contact with the Business Manager, Andrew Mawby by phone, 9562 2400 or by email, SM-8177-Fees@cewa.edu.au so that we can put in place financial support arrangements to enable your child's ongoing education at our school.

Any arrangements which are made between parents and our College will remain **confidential**.

In line with the Prime Minister's announcement, education in our Catholic schools will continue to be provided during the COVID-19 crisis. As parents, you have a choice to keep your child at home or send him or her to our physical College site. We will continue, whether your child is at school, or at home, to provide rich and engaging learning activities and strong pastoral support.

Yours sincerely

Dr Debra Sayce
Executive Director

Robert Marshall
Principal



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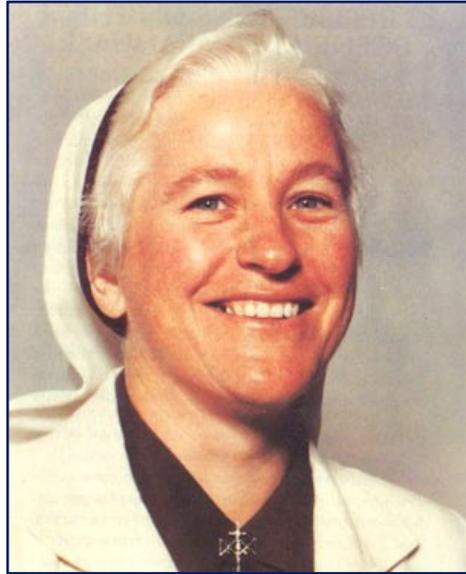
Prayer Service Justice

College Prayer

Dear Lord,

Help us to live the Gospel values
as exemplified by Irene McCormack.
Assist us in recognising injustice and finding
Irene's courage to act in the face of it.
Give us her vision and passion
to serve those in need.
Grant us her openness and serenity to treat each day
as your gift to be celebrated and shared.
May we use the words of the College motto –
Prayer, Service and Justice
as the guiding light for our daily lives.

Amen



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R.G. Marshall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mr Robert Marshall
Principal