



25th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

May I extend a warm welcome to our students and families as we prepare for the new school year. I am praying for a safe and exciting start to the new year.

Our staff have completed a week of training and preparation in the lead-up to the first day of term, including sessions on occupational health and safety, anaphylaxis, child safety, new teacher induction, and preparing curriculum for Term 1. I wish to thank our staff for supporting our students to have a good first week at school.

College Response to the Coronavirus

COVID-19 continues to impact our community at this time. Northside Christian College is continuing to implement a COVID Safe Plan and a range of additional strategies to assist in maintaining a safe learning environment for our College community.

Below are some things you need to know as we embark on a new year:

- Students in Year 3 and above must wear a face mask indoors at school unless a lawful exception applies. Students are not required to wear masks outside. Students in Prep to Year 2 are recommended to wear a face mask indoors at school.
- Everyone over 8 years old must wear a face mask when travelling to and from school on public transport, taxis, or rideshare vehicles unless a lawful exception applies.
- Windows and doors will be left open as much as possible in classrooms to ensure clean air is circulated through rooms at all times. The College has air purifier units in many learning spaces.
- Excursions and camps will take place with additional COVID Safe measures in place.
- The College will carefully consider the necessity of using shared equipment at this time. If used, strict hand hygiene protocols will be followed before and after use. The risks may be further minimised with staff wiping down items where appropriate.
- The Victorian Government has advised that free rapid antigen tests will be made available for all staff and students in Victorian schools for the first 4 weeks of Term 1. Rapid antigen testing will be voluntary for all Primary and Secondary School students and staff. Students and staff are recommended to undertake twice-weekly testing on school days (i.e. Monday and Wednesday). The College will communicate details about the collection of the rapid antigen tests. Students and staff will complete the tests at home and must report any positive test results to the College by emailing Ms. Liz Tsiros (Office Manager) at ltsiros@ncc.vic.edu.au.
- Students who report a COVID positive result must isolate for seven days and not attend school during that period.
- If a student receives a positive test result at any time, they must also report this through the Department of Health system or via the coronavirus hotline at 1800 675 398. For more information, please refer to: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/rapid-antigen-tests#report-a-positive-result-on-a-rapid-antigen-test>
- If a student is a household contact of a positive case, the school must be informed and the student is required to isolate for seven days and not attend school during that period.
- Students are requested to refrain from returning to school if they remain symptomatic unless it is known that their symptoms are caused by an underlying health condition or medication.
- Students who are required to isolate or quarantine will be supported in the same way as students with an extended absence due to illness or injury, with learning materials provided to support their continued learning.

- Prep students will be given instructions via SEQTA for some written and hands-on activities in the event of isolation. These activities will reflect the learning taking place in class for English, Maths, and Inquiry.
- Students from Year 1 to 6 will be required to complete their weekly homework tasks on MyEdOnline. Students will also be provided instructions via direct message from their teacher detailing a writing task and a list of pages from their PRIME Mathematics, Soundwaves, FRIENDZY, and Handwriting books to complete. When students return to school, students will need to show their work to their teacher. Each night, the classroom teacher will send home the above-mentioned books (four in total) to ensure students have them at home in the event.
- Learning resources for students in Years 7 – 12 will be published on Schoology on the relevant subject pages. Commencing Week 1, additional support will be provided to Unit 3/4 students who are isolating or in quarantine, including the provision of Zoom sessions.
- We still have limitations in terms of gatherings. The College requests that parents and carers limit their access to the College grounds to only essential visits to the College Reception (i.e. to collect an unwell child, making a payment with the Accounts Office, dropping off medication at Reception) during the first three weeks. Parents should not be gathering socially in groups at any time at the College at this time. Visitors are defined as all people other than staff members, students, parents, and carers involved in the task of delivering or collecting children at the start or end of the College day. Visitors are typically on the property for more than 15 minutes.
- Parents of new students are permitted to come on to the College grounds for up to 15 minutes to assist new students in finding their way to their new classroom.
- Visitors and volunteers at the College (both inside and outdoors) must have had at least two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine or have a valid medical exception. Visitors and volunteers must be advised to adhere to the College's COVID Safe requirements, including wearing a mask unless a lawful exception applies.
- The use of Service Victoria QR codes for electronic record-keeping continues to be mandatory in all schools. Visitors (someone on the College property for more than 15 minutes), volunteers, and anyone entering College buildings must sign in.

Car Park Arrangements

The end-of-day pick-up arrangements will be slightly different for the start of term. Please read the instructions below carefully:

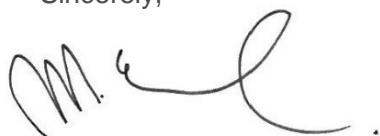
- 3:05 pm: All Worthy Warriors will need to be collected from the Main Gate
- 3:05 pm: All Courageous Conquerors will need to be collected from the Oval Car Park
- 3:20 pm: All Noble Knights need to be collected from the Oval Car Park

Parents will need to remain in their cars for pick-up and drop-off during the first 3 – 4 weeks. Parents wanting to walk their children to the gate in the mornings are welcome to park in the top gravel car park or the main car park. Please note there is limited car parking on site.

*** Attention Prep Parents: Please refer to the correspondence from the Prep teachers.**

I look forward to working with you all during the year ahead.

Sincerely,



Michael Bond
Principal