

20 July 2021



Dear St Michael's College community,

As you are aware, due to a new COVID cluster and increased exposure sites around South Australia, yesterday afternoon the Premier announced that **Level 4 restrictions** would be put in place across the state.

Following this, yesterday evening Catholic Education SA (CESA) provided guidelines for schools through a Principal webinar and circular. **Please note the information below relating to the announcements made by SA authorities** as initial, basic information. The College Leadership Team will continue to provide greater detail on specific matters as able. This will include such as ongoing hygiene management, events, activities, teaching, learning and wellbeing updates etc. Notwithstanding changes to the SA COVID situation, these types of restrictions will remain in place until Friday 23 July.

Importantly, **at this point schools are open, considered an essential service and exempt from certain restrictions.** As such, 'normal' face to face **teaching and learning programs will continue at St Michael's College unless directed otherwise.** During this next uncertain time, we will continue to focus on providing our students with the very best learning and wellbeing experiences, keeping them at the centre of all we do, remaining positive, caring and supportive.

Considering the current situation, we remain prepared for several scenarios should they eventuate from a wider COVID-19 outbreak. This includes any possible school closure or state-wide lockdown. **The College has in place Short Term Closure and Education Continuity Plans which can be enacted as necessary,** though we hope that the current restrictions are able to minimise the risk of this scenario. We will continue to follow the directions and guidelines of SA Health, the Government and CESA to ensure best outcomes for the St Michael's College community.

Please note the following specifics for this week:

- **Large gatherings** and events will be modified, postponed or cancelled as appropriate.
- All camps, **excursions** and trips by students will be postponed.
- All midweek competition and interschool **sport activities including training** will be cancelled for the rest of this week. Saturday sport will be determined as the week progresses.
- **Year 12 exams** will continue.
- **Masks** are not mandated to be worn in schools by adults or children. However, some may choose to wear masks and this is a personal decision.
- **Some children might be in quarantine** as a result of SA Health directions. They will be supplied and supported with work and learning as far as practicably possible. This will generally be through SEQTA, email and possibly MS Teams if appropriate.
- Access to schools should be limited to staff, students and essential services wherever possible. **Parents** are encouraged not to enter classrooms or school buildings unless absolutely necessary.
- Families should keep abreast of and follow SA Health and Government **requirements relating to exposure sites, testing and quarantine.** Also, as we are very used to, students should not attend school if unwell.
- Personal and College **Hygiene management** will be revisited and reinforced.

The strong partnerships and relationships between the staff, students and families of St Michael's College have held us in good stead throughout the COVID pandemic and I know will continue to do so through this current situation and beyond.

Regards

John

John Foley
Principal