

Tuesday 11 January 2022

Dear Families,

I pray you have enjoyed a time of refreshment over the Christmas break, and found an opportunity for rejuvenation and reflection in any travel, events and activities you may have participated in. Our College community misses the learning and interaction with students during any holiday break, and we look forward to partnering with you in your child's learning journey again this year.

We recognise that the start to the 2022 academic year will require us to navigate wide-spread illness, frustration and a significant variation to our normal rhythms and routines. In the midst of these changes I specifically pray for health, peace, calm responses to our circumstances, compassion towards others, the opportunity to reflect Christ in all that we do, and a shared hope that we are moving closer to the end of the pandemic.

Key Issues for the Commencement of the Academic Year

On Sunday 9 January, the [State Government announced](#) a delay to the commencement of the 2022 academic year by two weeks, until Monday 7 February, to reduce the impact of the expected peak of the Omicron wave in late January.

Yesterday the College Executive met to review the details of this announcement, and to plan the most appropriate manner to commence the academic year at Redlands College, taking into account our specific school circumstances.

Some of the key issues considered include:

- Large numbers of staff and students may be unwell as a result of the Omicron virus
- Staff, students and families are seeking initial touchpoints between the College and families
- An effective model to commence teaching and learning for Senior students is required
- A small number of vulnerable students, and children of essential workers, will require supervision on campus
- Customised approaches are required to suit the context of each sub-school
- Development of an equitable and achievable model of engagement between staff and students

This letter provides a summary of the whole of College positions that have been adopted for the start of the academic year. Heads of School will provide families with further detail on specific sub-school actions early next week.

Structure of First Two Weeks of Academic Year – Commencing Monday 24 & Monday 31 January

The College seeks to intentionally provide families with touchpoints of engagement between staff and students during the first two weeks of the year. We also recognise that many staff and students may be unwell in these first few weeks. We seek to develop opportunities for students who are well to form relational connections, consolidate knowledge and develop learning structures, whilst not moving ahead with new learning in Prep-Year 9, at the expense of students who are unwell. This will provide an equitable start to the year for students, and accommodate staffing absences that will arise.

To ensure continuity in our curriculum planning the existing weekly numbering system will continue:

- Week commencing Monday 24 January will be week 1
- Week commencing Monday 31 January will be week 2
- Week commencing Monday 7 February will be week 3 (students on campus this week)

The sub-school summaries below have been designed to specifically respond to the age of students, numbers of new students entering the College, numbers of staff in year levels and subjects and year level curriculum plans.

Our location

38 Anson Rd, Wellington Point Q 4160
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Junior School – Connection & Relationship Focus

- Classroom teachers will seek to make contact with each student once per week (via phone, zoom or email) to facilitate a sense of connection and engagement.
- No new learning will be introduced during these two weeks.
- Resources and videos will be available on Learning@Redlands to consolidate knowledge.
- Year level teaching teams will provide structure for students to complete a project entitled “What I want you to know about me” using any appropriate medium, to facilitate teachers gaining valuable insights into each student’s strengths, weaknesses and interests, prior to the start of the new year.

Middle School – Orientation, Induction and Pastoral Focus

- Middle School has the largest number of new students commencing their first year at the College. The focus will be on engagement through pastoral care class teachers, rather than through academic class structures.
- Pastoral care teachers will seek to make contact with each student once per week (via phone, zoom or email) to facilitate a sense of connection and engagement.
- No new learning will be introduced during these two weeks.
- PC teachers will introduce students to learning routines, diaries and systems including Learning@Redlands

Senior School – Teaching and Learning Focus

- Academic Learning will commence for all students from Years 10-12
- Student timetables will operate on a remote learning model, rather than their normal timetable, focussing on learning in year level subjects.
- Students will receive their remote learning timetable by Friday 21 January (for Monday 24 January – Friday 4 February) and then revert to the normal timetable on Monday 7 February

End Date for Academic Year in 2022

The College undertook a calendar review in 2020, resulting in the development of a new academic year structure. The College term dates recognise that the longer school days at Redlands College enable the minimum time requirements for teaching and learning to be exceeded, within our existing academic weeks and holiday schedule. These dates have been published to the College community and no change will be made to the school end date in 2022. The finishing dates for each year level are:

- Year 12: 18 November, 2022 Prep-Year 11: 2 December, 2022

Arrangements for Vulnerable Students and Children of Essential Workers

During the first two weeks of term, the College will provide a supervised space for vulnerable students, or children of essential workers, who will be on campus. Students will be supervised by both teaching and non-teaching staff.

The Queensland Government defines a vulnerable student as a student who is at-risk of harm if they remain home during this time.

The Queensland Government defines an essential worker as someone who provides essential services and who is unable to work from home. Categories of employment include: Health, emergency services, resource sector, power/utilities, agriculture/fisheries, freight/logistics, public transport, education, essential retail (supermarkets etc) manufacturing, distribution and supply chains (food, petrol, etc).

[PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SURVEY](#) if you are classified as an essential worker, or you have a vulnerable child, and will require your children to attend the College between 24 January and 4 February 2022. This will ensure appropriate supervising staff arrangements can be made.

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Wearing of Facemasks at the College

The current [Health Direction 4](#) (issued 2 Jan) outlines the requirements for wearing a facemask in Queensland, with supporting information from the [Queensland Government website](#). A section of the FAQs from this page is included below. Masks must be worn indoors, unless seated and able to maintain 1.5m from others. Masks not required outdoors if social distancing can be maintained.

Do students in high school need to wear a mask?

- All high school students, including those who are under 12 years of age, need to wear a mask unless they are seated indoors or outdoors or are able to maintain a 1.5 metre distance from others.

Do I have to wear a mask when I am in an indoor workplace?

- If you are seated at an indoor workplace and can maintain 1.5m from your colleagues you may remove your face mask. However, with the rapid spread of COVID-19, it is strongly recommended you wear a mask at all times while at work, particularly when talking with colleagues, whether you're seated or standing. An indoor space that is a workplace includes a classroom, childcare room and shared indoor area at a school or childcare centre.

Do teachers and childcare workers have to wear a mask?

- Generally, teachers (primary and high school) and childcare workers are required to wear masks while standing or moving about indoors, but may remove their mask when seated or if able to maintain a 1.5 metre distance from others while teaching or interacting with students or children. A face shield could be used if visibility of the mouth is essential for teaching. Masks can be removed when outdoors if 1.5 metres distance can be maintained from others.

Operational Changes

- The College Bus routes will not operate from 24 January-4 February. Buses will commence on 7 February.
- The Tuckshop will be open with a reduced menu. The Coffee Shop will be open.

Changes to Events

A range of events planned for the first part of term one will be either cancelled, postponed, or a decision still to be confirmed, as a result of the delayed start to the academic year. A summary of these changes is included below:

Date	Event	Cancelled	Postponed	TBC
24/1	Commencement Service			
27/1	Y7 Character Builders			
27/1	Welcome to Middle School			
28/1	JS Swimming Carnival			
31/1	Mdl & Snr Swimming Carnival			
3/2	Michelle Mitchell Parent Night			
7/2	Year 10 Camp			
9/2	Class Photos			
10/2	Class Photos			
15/2 – 18/2	Year 7 Camp			

Thankyou for navigating these changes in partnership with the College, as we start the new year. Parents and students are warmly invited to contact College staff for support and assistance over these two weeks.



Andrew Johnson
College Principal

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