



Marian College

A Kildare Education Ministries School in the Brigidine tradition

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Issue 1
31st January, 2022

Principal: Mrs. Carmel Barker





From the Principal's Office



Dear Parents, Carers, Friends and Students of Marian College,

❖ *We encourage excellence and perseverance in learning,*

❖ *We strive for continuous improvement*

A very warm welcome to the 2022 school year. I hope you and your family have had an opportunity for rest and relaxation over the holiday period. We look forward to working with you to bring faith filled learning to this wonderful cohort of children/young people in 2022. To those who are new to our community, I extend a very warm welcome and look forward to meeting with you over the course of the year.

St Brigid's Day

With the return of Year 7 and Year 12 on February 1st, we celebrate the feast day of our patroness, St Brigid of Kildare (451-525). It was in 1807 when Bishop Daniel Delany of Kildare and Leighlin in Ireland, invited six women to form a religious order based in Tullow, Co Carlow. He named this order the Sister of St Brigid after this great 5th century Saint of Kildare. We are blessed in our community to have both Sisters John and Maree. Both have served more than sixty years as dedicated, compassionate Brigidine Sisters, inspiring and supporting us in our work. Have a wonderful St Brigid's Day Sister John and Sister Maree.

***St. Brigid Mary of Ireland
ask for us all today,
the courage to do God's bidding
whatever the world may say.
The grace to be strong and valiant,
the grace to be firm and true
the grace to be faithful always
to God, God's Mother and you.***

Returning to School

I have received notice from a number of staff and families within the school community compromised by the COVID illness and isolation requirements over the holiday period. I wish the very best to those who are unwell for a speedy recovery.

I understand there may be some nervousness around the return of all students. Please know that based on the latest government regulations and advice, we have been working hard on our COVID safety plan in preparation for school return. There is extensive information within this correspondence, based on the Operational Guide of the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV) in collaboration with the Department of Education. We will continue to keep you updated over the days and weeks as we adjust and combat this wave to the best of our ability. The safety of your child/young people, staff and families remain our highest priority. Please see comprehensive details in this newsletter regarding Rapid Antigen tests, isolation, and support. If your child is unwell please keep them home.

Teacher Advisor Groups and Class Groups

Every few years because of changes in numbers, staff retirement, the need for greater balance across the various year levels, or balance of gender or needs we must adjust some of the Teacher Advisor groups. This was necessary for 2022. Where possible in the placement of each child we have taken into consideration support and friendships for your child.

Very early in the school year your child's Teacher Advisor will make contact with you to introduce themselves and open lines of communication.

Similarly, class lists were released on Friday. Many hours are devoted to finding the right combinations and supports for all students to provide the best conditions conducive to high levels of learning for all. Sometimes students may feel disappointed because they are not in class with all their friends. The timetable is a complex system. Students will often be together in some classes but perhaps not all core subjects and electives. Please know that our decisions are based on the best information available about knowing the students we teach and how they learn best. It also relies upon allocation of resources including Learning Support Staff to the areas of highest learning needs. However, we know we are not perfect and an oversight may have occurred or limitations may have prevented our first choice. If you have any concerns with class allocations please contact Ms Stephanie Saravanja as the Head of Wellbeing.

For Subject allocations please contact (Year 9 and 10) Mr Summers (Year 11 and 12) Mrs Edwards. All Years 7 and 8 students complete the same subjects and electives.

Welcome to Our New Staff

A very warm welcome to a number of staff new to the Marian Community. We wish them well as they join our wonderful community and begin to work closely with the students to continue our improvement journey. Welcome to: Mrs Susan MacPherson (Head of Science), Ms Emma Rusden (English, Humanities and Wellbeing), Mr Baskoro Otto (Music and Drama), Ms Emma Dawes (Psychologist), Mrs Ann-Maree Brown, Ms Hannah Terry, Ms Grace Musgrave in the area of Learning Support Officers.

Building Works.

Work on the heritage building is almost complete with fences expected to go down in the new week or so. This has been a significant undertaking to replace the essential structural supports on the now 134 year old building. With the front and back verandahs now reinforced, we

continue to enjoy the beauty and hard work by many generations of Sisters, staff and parents who dedicated time, effort and resources to create the Marian story.

Rapid Antigen Testing (Based on the Operational Guide CECV)

"Free rapid antigen tests will be made available for all staff and students in Victorian schools for the first four weeks of Term 1 2022. Rapid antigen testing will be **voluntary** for all primary, secondary and specialist school students and staff. We hope that families will take up this opportunity to secure the safety of each member of our school community.

Rapid antigen test kits will be distributed directly to schools for the commencement of Term 1 2022. The school will inform you as soon as tests are available and how we intend to distribute them".

Tests will be provided in packs of five individual tests. Students will be given one pack on their first day at school and one pack at the start of week three. Students will be requested to not open tests and to take them directly home to their parents at the end of the school day. Students are requested to test twice weekly on school days (we recommend prior to school on Monday and Thursday mornings). Obviously this week will need to be a little different with Year 7s and 12s testing prior to school on Wednesday morning and Year 8s to 11s testing prior to school on Thursday.

Advice for Positive Cases

If staff or students receive a positive test result at any time, they must report this through the Department of Health system ([Rapid antigen tests | Coronavirus Victoria](#)) or via the coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398.

Students who report a positive result must isolate for seven days and not attend school during that period.

Staff and students **must not return to school** while they remain symptomatic, unless it is known that their symptoms are caused by an underlying health condition or medication.

As principal I will notify the school community through email or message when a student or staff member has (or multiple students or staff members) have returned a positive COVID-19 test result and have attended the school or school activities. The notification will protect the privacy of the individual but will include:

- Dates of attendance
- Affected group/cohort/year levels
- Any relevant extracurricular activities undertaken

The notification may be provided to only the affected group/cohort/year level or we may notify the whole school community depending on the circumstances and the risks.

Students or their parents must also report a positive result to their school. Please phone the front office immediately or as soon as possible; this is so the school can support your child, record that they will be absent while in 7-day isolation, and let the rest of the school community know there has been a positive case onsite and that they should monitor for symptoms.

Advice for Positive Cases

All students and staff who return a positive result from a rapid antigen test should also follow the latest government health advice at <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/rapid-antigen-tests>.

Information about how to do a test, including a how-to video translated into 33 languages, is available [online](#).

Household Contact

Where a student is a household contact of a positive case (that is, they have spent more than four hours with someone who has COVID-19 inside a house, accommodation, or care facility) they must inform the school and isolate for seven days and not attend school during that period.

Students who are required to isolate or quarantine will be supported by the school in the same way as students with an extended absence due to illness or injury, with learning materials provided. The level of support will depend on the capacity of the school to support continued learning and the number of staff available to do so. Our school is not able to provide a full remote learning program in these circumstances.

Year 12 Retreat

All Year 12 students will be asked to complete a Rapid Antigen test on Tuesday nights (or Wednesday morning at the latest) prior to stepping on the bus for the Retreat at Camp Hill. Working with the camp, staff and students have been spread across the accommodation areas to minimize numbers. This is an important event in the development of our new Year 12 cohort as they develop as a strong team.

Year 7 Camp

Unfortunately, we have received advice that the Year 7 camp at Lorne must be postponed until the week of February 28. Again, this is an excellent camp for building community among the new students. Details about the new arrangements will be forwarded to parents by Mrs Rhonda North.

Carmel Barker

Principal

Term 1 2022



2nd - 4th February	Year 12 Retreat
16th February	Ash Wednesday
17th February	Year 7 and 10 Immunisations
18th February	School Opening Mass
22nd February	School Photos
23rd February	Swimming Carnival
28th Feb - 7th March	Year 7 Camp Week (TBC)
14th March	LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY
16th - 18th March	Year 8 Retreat
5th April	Athletics Carnival
8th April	Stations of the Cross End of Term 1



COVID-19 home use tests

This fact sheet explains how to use and interpret the results from COVID-19 home use tests (also known as COVID-19 rapid antigen self-tests).

What is a COVID-19 home use test (rapid antigen self-test)?

Home use tests for COVID-19 test a nasal swab, saliva, or oral fluid sample for the presence of the virus that causes COVID-19.

Home use tests can be used anywhere, including at home or work. They can be used without the involvement of a doctor or health professional. Most tests produce a result within 10-20 minutes.

When should I use the test?

The tests are more reliable when used by a person with COVID-19 symptoms, and less reliable when used by a person without symptoms. **IMPORTANT:** Home use tests are not as accurate as tests done in the laboratory (called PCR tests).

Where can I get a test?

Home use tests are available from pharmacies, supermarkets, retail outlets and online.

Only tests approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) are legally permitted to be sold in Australia. The TGA

website has a list of all the approved home use tests, along with a copy of the manufacturer's instructions for each test.

The list of approved tests is available at: <https://www.tga.gov.au/covid-19-rapid-antigen-self-tests-are-approved-australia>

How do I use the test?

Many home use tests are available and each one is different. It is important to follow the steps in the instructions provided with the test you use.

Not using the test properly may produce an incorrect result.

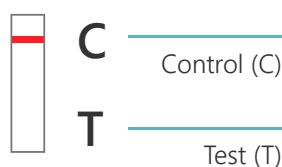
All tests are for single use only which means you can only use each test **ONCE** and then it must be thrown away. Do not ever use a test more than once or attempt to use one test on different people.

Wash your hands after completing the test and disposing of the test kit contents.

What do the test results look like?

Most results will be displayed in a window on the device. The instructions provided with the test will explain what the result means.

For example the results could look like this:



Negative Result



A second line even if faint is a **positive** result

What do I do if I get a positive result?

If you get a positive result it is recommended that you stay at home. Check the information provided by your [state or territory health department](#) to find out what you need to do. This includes whether you need to report your result and quarantine requirements. If you are unwell you should seek medical assistance.

What do I do if I get a negative result?

If you get a negative result it is less likely that you have COVID-19, but continue to follow all public health advice on limiting the spread of the virus.

If you feel unwell or have symptoms you should get a PCR test as soon as possible.

What do I do if I get an 'invalid' result?

Home use tests may produce an 'invalid' result, which means it has not worked correctly. If this happens, you should throw it away and do another home use test, or if you are unwell and have symptoms, get a PCR test at a testing site.

How regularly should I use home use tests?

This will depend on the recommendations and requirements of the state or territory you live in. Check your [state or territory Health Departments website](#) for information.

Can home use tests be used for children?

Tests on children should always be done or supervised by an adult. See the instructions provided with the test for any safety instructions for using the test on a child.

How do I dispose of a home use test?

This will vary according to information provided with the tests. Some tests come with a plastic bag to place the contents of

the test into (including the swab). This bag is then placed into another bag for disposal with your household rubbish.

If no bags are provided you can place the used items from the test into a small plastic bag that can be sealed. This bag should be put into another bag that can be sealed and disposed of with your household rubbish.

Wash your hands carefully after completing the test and disposing of the test kit contents.

Other things to consider

What are the concerns with home use tests and are they accurate?

Home use tests are not as accurate as PCR tests, but they are very helpful because they provide results quickly. They can also pick up the COVID-19 virus very early in the infection, sometimes before you have symptoms.

Where there are low rates of COVID-19, the tests are less accurate as there is a higher risk of both false positive and false negative results.

Do the recommendations vary between jurisdictions?

The use of different types of COVID-19 tests and what you're required to do if you get a positive result may vary in each state and territory. [Further information](#) is available on their websites.

Reporting problems

If there is a problem with the test, you should report it to the supplier or sponsor. You should be able to see the sponsor contact details on the label.

You can also report problems with home use tests to the TGA online at tga.gov.au/reporting-problems



More information

For information on the use of home use tests and what to do if you test positive, follow the advice in your state or territory. Links are available at [COVID-19 testing](#) on the Department of Health website.

For information about the COVID-19 home use test regulatory process for sponsors and manufacturers, Please contact us at COVIDtests@tga.gov.au or call **1800 141 144**

2022 LEADERSHIP TEAM AT MARIAN COLLEGE



PRINCIPAL
CARMEL BARKER



HEAD OF WELLBEING
STEPHANIE SARAVANJA



HEAD OF LEARNING
AND TEACHING
MATTHEW SUMMERS



HEAD OF ORGANISATION
AND STUDENT PATHWAYS
LUCY EDWARDS



FACULTY HEADS & COORDINATORS



Religious Education Coordinator
STEPHEN EAST



Head of The Arts
BARB VENN



Head of English
STEPHANIE MANSELL



Head of Humanities
MELISSA TERRY



Head of School Improvement
NATALIE WIRPER



Head of Maths
JOHN COGHLAN



Head of Science
SUSAN MACPHERSON



Head of Physical Education
PAUL McLOUGHLAN



Head of Sport
MICHAEL HARRICKS



Head of Technology
MEGAN SHEA



Head of VET/MCAL
DANI SMITH



Learning Diversity & Year
7 Transition Coordinator
RHONDA NORTH



Justice & Democracy
EMILY LINDSAY



Business Manager &
Bus Coordinator
LEONIE MCGUCKIAN

2022 HOUSE LEADERS



Ms. Erica
McConachy



Mrs. Mary-Lou
Boatman



Mrs. Donna
Spalding



Mr. Nick
Lloyd



2022 STUDENT LEADERS

SCHOOL CAPTAINS



IVANA DONNAN



GABRIEL TONKS

HOUSE LEADERS



JACQUELINE GRAYLING ELLY GALOSO



ELISE MONAGHAN NELLIE HITCHCOCK



LOUISE COOPER RUBY SMITH



MIA LARDNER JEMIMA HARNEY

LEARNING CAPTAINS



LILY PARSONS



CHARLOTTE WALKER



LAYLA DALE



NOAH WINEBERG



GEORGIA WHITE



NEWS

FROM YOUR HOUSE LEADER

Welcome to 2022! I hope that the start of Term 1 2022 finds you rested and well. Although we can expect some less than usual procedures as we begin the year, such as frequent RATs (rapid antigen testing), in this era of Covid, attending school on-site is always a positive.

I look forward to seeing our returning Barron students and those new Year 7s beginning their first year at the college. It is so exciting to begin the secondary school journey, meeting new friends and adjusting to the Year 7 program. I wish all of our sevens a smooth transition, and welcome to Barron House! Our returning students can expect new classes, new teachers, and the opportunity to put their best foot forward as learners. Year 12 students will head off on their retreat from Wednesday to Friday, a chance to reflect on their time thus far at school and to focus on this final year and the possibilities beyond.

A huge congratulations to Barron's Ivana Donnan and Gabriel Tonks, our two Marian College 2022 School Captains! There is no doubt that they will lead with the integrity and congeniality with which they already conduct themselves. Layla Dale and Noah Wineberg will proudly represent Barron as College Learning Leaders, and Elly Galoso and Jac Grayling will direct their energy into leading Barron students as Barron House Captains. We are lucky to have this 2022 Year 12 cohort leading our school.

Erica McConachy
Barron House Leader

FROM YOUR HOUSE LEADER

Welcome back to all students for 2022. I hope that you were all able to get a break and return rested and relaxed from your holidays. I'd like to especially welcome all the Year 7s and new students in other year levels and their families. I hope you enjoy your time at Marian College and I look forward to working with you.

Returning students will notice some changes to the teaching staff and our TA structure. At the end of last year, we farewelled two long-time Clancy Teacher Advisors Mrs Giles and Mr Hunt. We wish them well in their future employment and retirement respectfully. Our new Clancy TA structure for 2022 will be:-

TA Clancy 1 - Lucy Edwards (UH2)
TA Clancy 2 - Paul McLoughlan (UH3)
TA Clancy 3 - Melissa Terry (MC3)
TA Clancy 4 - Tanya Waterson (MC6)
TA Clancy 5 - Michael Harricks and Sr John (B4)

This year's Clancy House Captains are Elise Monaghan and Nellie Hitchcock and Lily Parsons will take her place as a Learning Leader for 2022. I'm sure they will be wonderful leaders and role models, so make sure that you get behind them and give them your support. Altogether there are 13 Clancy students completing Year 12 this year. I wish them all the best for what will, no doubt, be a very exciting but challenging year. Always remember that together you can achieve many great things. They will head off on their 3-day retreat this week. We hope they enjoy the time together, developing trust, making strong connections and relationships which will help them negotiate their final year at Marian College as a strong and cohesive group.

As we continue to work with the complexities of Covid 19 it is difficult to say with any certainty what the term one calendar will include. What we can say is that we will do our utmost to hold as many activities as permitted where we can maintain a safe environment for all.

Remember that masks are a mandatory requirement indoors and on busses. Please give teachers and staff your full co-operation by doing this with as little fuss as possible.

This year's school theme is very appropriate for these times. This will be the "Year of Compassion". Compassion can be described as the feeling that arises when you are confronted with another's suffering and feel motivated to relieve that suffering. When dealing with friends, parents and teachers remember that each of us has our own struggle and helping each other when we can, helps us feel better as well.

Show compassion when dealing with others and be kind.

Welcome to 2022.


Go Clancy!

Mrs Boatman
Clancy House Leader





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NEWS



FROM YOUR HOUSE LEADER

Welcome back everyone. Let's hope 2022 can bring us a lot of joy.

Out school theme for 2022: The Year of Compassion.

Compassion motivates people to go out of their way to help physical, mental, or emotional pains of another and themselves. Compassion is often regarded as having sensitivity, which is an emotional aspect of suffering.

Let's try to be compassionate and walk in other people's shoes in 2022.

Welcome back to the Kelly TA Teachers and our new Year 7 students:-

KELLY HOUSE TA's:-

Kelly 1 – Ryan Casey – MC4 – Charlie Dunn, Mariia Liashenko, Maggie Lovell-Field

Kelly 2 – Nathan Baker – Science Lab 1, Sophia Clark, Euan Lennie, Oliver Phillips, Bridie Price, Wyatt Tunstall

Kelly 3- Natalie Wirper – MC5 – Tess Clementson, Lily Dunn, Archie Hunt, Elsa McConachy, William Wilson

Kelly 4 – Olga Milne – BD3 – Zayan Gondal, Arlo Hastings, Heidi Kane, Amelia Moloney

Kelly 5 – Ben Naus – Science Lab 2 – Tahir Hassan, Hugh Morris.

Congratulations to our 2022 Kelly House Leaders, Louise Cooper and Ruby Smith. I am confident that both girls will be reliable, approachable and hopefully 'committed to excellence'.

Our Year 12s are off to their Retreat on Wednesday. Hopefully all parents/guardians have submitted their significant letter to the front office. I cannot stress enough that this letter plays an important role in your child's perception of themselves.

Please remember to be in correct summer uniform. That also includes your hat for Terms 1 and 4. I wish you all the best for 2022.

Regards, Mrs. Donna Spalding.

FROM YOUR HOUSE LEADER

Dear Parents, Students, Teachers and the Marian College Community,

I'd like to take this opportunity to express a very warm welcome to everyone for the 2022 school year. My name is Nick Lloyd and I am very excited to be taking upon the role of Synnott House Leader once again in 2022. It promises to be a fulfilling and exciting year of learning here at Marian College. This will be my 8th year in the role as Head of Synnott and I really enjoy working with all of the students and staff within the community.

A special welcome to all our new year 7 students. I trust your transition into the College has been a smooth one. I will take the chance in this article to remind us all that the symbol for Synnott is the Lamp of Learning. Students should use this as a symbol of why we are here and why we have a strong sense of belonging here at Marian College. We want to always be striving to do our best, especially when faced with challenges.

There are endless opportunities for students to be involved in many aspects of school life, both academic and extra-curricular and this will be obvious to students in Synnott as we progress into the school year. The College theme for the year is the 'Year of Compassion'. Also though we want to drive an idea of having the year centred around the idea of 'Excellence'. Excellence in all that we do, staff and students. This sits very well within the idea of developing a love of learning. It's my hope that all students will sense this as a part of their year here at Marian College in 2022.

Can I use this opportunity to let all parents and guardians know that each student has a Teacher Advisor. A teacher who they will see every day to start the day. The TA teacher is an excellent person to get in contact with should you have any issues that you would like to discuss.

Once again, I am very much looking forward to the year. You shall hear from me again soon in our ongoing newsletter articles.

Cheers,
Nick Lloyd
Synnott House Leader



BUSHFIRE PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION

As we enter the bushfire season for another year it is important that the guidelines regarding school arrangements for CODE RED days, Total Fire Ban days and bushfire alerts are clearly articulated to all parents. These are as follows:

1. **No** school buses will run on any days that are declared CODE RED to Marian College. This includes the Halls Gap, Pomonal, Moyston, Amphitheatre, Elmhurst, Buangor, Beaufort, Concongella, Stawell, Navarre, Landsborough, Maroona and Willaura routes. All of these buses run through areas that are on the **At Risk Register**, and as such, are unable to transport students on CODE RED days because of the high potential of bush fires.
2. On CODE RED days, parents are asked to ensure students who are remaining at home because their bus is not running are **never** left at home unattended or in the care of older children.
3. **Marian College has not been identified as being at high fire risk**, and as such it will remain **OPEN** on a CODE RED day unless it is directly threatened by fire.
4. If a fire starts during the day that affects a bus route home, the College will be notified by the bus Coordinators at either Stawell or Ararat College. It may be possible that students are not permitted to travel home on the bus in such a situation. Parents will be notified if this occurs, and students will be cared for at school until transportation home can be arranged.
5. While our school has not been identified as being at high fire risk, we do plan offsite activities – such as camps and field trips – during the fire season. If such activities are considered to be at risk from fire, or occur on a Total Fire Ban day-they will be rescheduled or cancelled.
6. If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan – particularly if you are planning day trips or holidays to fire-prone areas.

Please feel free to contact the College if you require further advice or information.

APP TO ASSIST WITH THE PARENT ACCESS MODULE

**Install Simon Everywhere on your phone to
receive notifications**

Simon Everywhere is now available on
App Store and Google Play.

Your school has joined the growing Simon Everywhere community. By installing the Simon Everywhere app, you will be able to receive push notifications direct to your phone. Plus you will have easy access to all of the great PAM features, such as Assessments, Reports, Activity Permissions and more.

- Search "Simon Everywhere" on App Store or Google Play and install the app
- Launch Simon Everywhere and register with your name and mobile number
- Click Add School and locate your school from the list
- Enter your existing PAM credentials



Please contact the Marian College Office to advise of your child's absence. If the office has not been notified, we will contact the family via SMS.

Please phone: 5352 3861 or send an email to: tmason@mcararat.catholic.edu.au



Marian College is a
"SunSmart School".

The wearing of hats is
compulsory during Terms
1 and 4.

Replacement hats can be
purchased at the Office
for \$7.00.



February 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	1 YEARS 7 & 12 COMMENCE TERM 1	2 YEARS 8, 9, 10 & 11 COMMENCE TERM 1	3	4
		YEAR 12 RETREAT		
7 INTERMEDIATE/ SENIOR CRICKET	8	9	10 INTERMEDIATE/ SENIOR TENNIS	11
14	15	16 ASH WEDNESDAY	17 YEAR 7 and 10 IMMUNISATIONS	18 OPENING SCHOOL MASS
21	22 SCHOOL PHOTOS	23 SWIMMING CARNIVAL	24	25