



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the beginning of the 2022 school year, our 60th anniversary year, the Year of the Heart. We are looking forward to welcoming back students next week. Whilst I am sure that the initial section of this letter is of most pressing importance for many families, I would encourage you to continue reading beyond the Covid-19 and return to school information. This letter aims to provide you with key information on a range of areas that you may find helpful both to begin the year and throughout the year.

While our hope was that 2022 would bring more stability and certainty than we all experienced in 2020 and 2021, the emergence of the Omicron variant at the end of 2021 has required the continuation of many of the protocols that we had in place last year. At the forefront of all of our decisions is the health and safety of our community. The vast majority of the measures included in the guidelines announced on 24 January by the Chief Minister, Education Minister and Chief Health Officer are a continuation of the practices that were in place at the end of 2021. The key addition is the commitment by the ACT government to provide Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) for all students and staff for the first 4 weeks of Term 1.

- The ACT Government has committed to providing two RATs per week to all students and school staff for the first 4 weeks of Term 1. As of today, I have not received the specific detail of when these will be available to our community. However, my understanding is that these tests are not due to be available to schools until the end of Week 1 due to supply constraints. Once I have received these details the process for collection of tests will be sent to families.
- I can assure families that the use of these tests is not compulsory, as was indicated by the Education Minister, and the College will not be asking families to report a negative test result. However, under the current ACT Health Guidelines, all positive test results must be reported to ACT Health through their online form, and we ask families to also notify the College (your student's House Coordinator/PCA and the relevant AP Pastoral Care) so that we can implement the required response. This forms the basis of contact tracing for schools under the Guidelines from ACT Health. For students who reside in NSW, the same reporting mechanisms for a positive test result are in place through Service NSW.
- A negative test result is not required to be provided prior to students attending school.
- At no time will College staff perform a RAT on a student. If a student is unwell, they will be asked to attend First Aid, where their parent/carer will be contacted and asked to collect them. The

- Under the current health orders, the wearing of face masks is mandatory for all staff and students while indoors. This includes corridor areas and the canteen. Students are also required to wear masks on public transport including school buses. Masks are not required outdoors.
  - If your student is unable to wear a mask due to medical reasons, please contact your student's
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- Please keep your student at home when they are sick or unwell.
  - Students who are unwell must not attend the College and should stay home and are encouraged to get tested using the RAT tests provided.
  - If any member of our community attends school while unwell, they will be sent home and asked to follow the current health advice.
  - While at school, students experiencing symptoms compatible with Covid-19 (e.g. fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath) will be directed to First Aid and will be isolated with appropriate supervision and collected by a parent/carer as soon as possible.
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- Monday 31 January: Year 7 students (8:45am-3:27pm) and all new students Years 8-12 (8:45am-11am) plus Year 10 Peer Support students (from 8am) will return to school. Year 7 students are encouraged to use public transport on this day. Returning Year 11 students will be provided an alternate program and will not be required onsite.
  - Tuesday 1 February: All students (Years 7-12) return to school.
  - Unfortunately, many of the calendared events that were due to take place in Term 1 will need to be assessed.
  - The College Executive Team is currently working closely with the event/activity organiser to determine if alternate formats may be able to be adopted to enable the activity/event to go ahead. This information will then be forwarded to the relevant groups and will be posted on the College Website.
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- The Year 7 Digital Training sessions that were calendared to occur in Week 4 of Term 1 will be brought forward to the Monday of Week 2 (7 February).
  - All Year 7 students will be asked to bring their devices to school from this date.
  - If your Year 7 student is not able to access a laptop by this date, I would ask that parents contact their student's PCA so that alternate arrangements can be made. The contact list of Pastoral Leaders can be found at the end of this document.

We welcome to the staff this term:

- Angus Balmaks – Sports Coordinator/ PE and Health
- Fleur Cains- Reception
- Andersen Clark – Mathematics
- Sophie Coutts – Science Laboratory Technician
- Matthew Cresswell – Religion
- Erin Gustus - HPE
- Michael Hartfeld – English
- Kate Lewis – English
- Gabrielle Matthews – Inclusive Education/HASS
- Joanna Muller – Mathematics
- Mathurra Sivapalan – Science
- Elana Sliwinski – HASS
- Matt Webbie – PE and Health

Returning from leave in 2021 we welcome back Annie Andersen, Lucy Beponis, Bobbie Dawson, Millie Henry, Kathy Pollard and Tanya Wilson.

Sarah O'Sullivan and Sarah Foley remain as our School Counsellors.

At the end of 2021 we farewelled the following staff:

- Anna Hasan
  - Cameron McAlister
  - Christine Conlon
  - Colin Price
  - John O'Kane
  - Linda Goth
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The starting time for the Pastoral Tutor lesson is 8.50am so students need to arrive at school by 8.45am each day in order to get to their first class on time. Supervision of students is provided from 8.25am until 3.40pm on each school day. Students in Years 7-10 are required to stay at school from the time they arrive at school in the morning until the end of the school day unless they have specific approval from their Pastoral Leader or a member of the Executive. If students have parental permission to attend an external appointment during the school day they must sign-out at the Student Office (near Reception).

It is important that we are notified promptly of any change of contact details, including email addresses, so that you receive important communications including Covid-19 alerts, notifications about pastoral and academic issues and the like. Changes to email addresses, phone numbers or home addresses should be advised by emailing Damaris Brown at [enrolments@daramalan.act.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@daramalan.act.edu.au) or by phoning her on 62456348. It is particularly important that we have up to date parent/carer phone numbers in case of an emergency and to notify parents of student absences. The SMS absence notification system is used for students in Years 7-12 who are absent from school during Pastoral Tutor lessons without prior notice.

Reception is staffed from 8.30am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday during school terms. During holiday periods, Reception is staffed from 9.00am to 4.00pm unless otherwise advised in our newsletter, Daranews. The phone number for Reception is 62456300.

If you wish to contact a particular staff member there are several options. A list of the contact numbers for members of the Executive, Pastoral Leaders and Subject Coordinators is available at the back of the College calendar and on Daranet. To contact other staff please phone Reception or use the email instructions provided in the calendar. When contacting staff, please be aware that due to teaching and other commitments it may not be possible for them to return your call immediately. A list of who should be the first point of contact for specific issues is included with this letter

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mindful when picking up students that you are not parked in a designated bus zone or a signposted no parking area.

The ACT Government is delivering road infrastructure to support Canberra's newest public high school in the east Gungahlin suburb of Kenny, which is due to open in 2023.

Construction of the new high school is underway. Roadworks will also commence in coming weeks to upgrade sections of Well Station Drive and extend Albatross Crescent to provide access to the school. From Monday 24 January 2022, bus route 18 and school route 1020 will divert around Well Station Drive. This change will be in place for three weeks (weather permitting). For safety reasons the existing bus stops at the Well Station Drive/Albatross Crescent (west) intersection will be closed for the duration of the project. Temporary and alternative stops have been created. I have attached a map showing this route diversion.

Parents, carers and students are directed to this link on the Transport Canberra website for all relevant information, including a copy of the map - <https://www.transport.act.gov.au/news/service-alerts-and-updates>

If you have any questions about this project, you can contact [communityengagement@act.gov.au](mailto:communityengagement@act.gov.au). You can also stay updated on the project's progress at [www.cityservices.act.gov.au](http://www.cityservices.act.gov.au).

- Under the current ACT Health Guidelines for School, parents and carers are asked only to attend
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AST	Mr Chris De Britt - AP Teaching and Learning
Careers, including university entrance pre-requisites, and Work Experience	Ms Annette Brady - Careers Advisor
Class matters- teaching and learning	Teacher, then Subject Coordinator then AP Teaching and Learning
Enrolments and change of family contact details	Mrs Damaris Brown - Enrolments Officer
Fees – general issues	Mrs Corinne Kelly – Office and Fees Manager
Fee Concessions and Covid-19 financial assistance	Mr Hugh Boulter – Business Manager
First Aid	Ms Anne-Marie Doherty and Ms Nicole South
Inclusive Education matters	Ms Dale Seaman - Inclusive Education Coordinator then Mr Chris De Britt - AP Teaching and Learning
Information Centre	Ms Bronwyn Milgate - Information Services Centre Coordinator
IT technical issues	IT Service Desk
NAPLAN	Mr Chris De Britt - AP Teaching and Learning
Ms Heike Craig- Assessment and Assurance Coordinator	
Pastoral issues	PCA (Years 7-8) or House Coordinator (Years 9-12) then AP Pastoral Care (Years 7-8) or AP Pastoral Care (Years 9-12)
Retreats/ Refection Days/ Immersions	Ms Cheryl Hamill - Assistant Principal Mission
Road Ready	Mr Steven Hackett - Road Ready Convenor
School transport issues	Mrs Angela Dunn - AP Pastoral Care (Years 7-8)
School photos	Mrs Angela Dunn - AP Pastoral Care (Years 7-8)
Sports matters	Mr Angus Balmaks- Sports Coordinator or
Sports Office	
Subject Selections and Parent Teacher Interview Bookings	Mr David James- Operations and Data Administrator
Teacher performance	Mr James Keeley - Deputy Principal
Timetable, assessment and study package matters	Mr Ben Stein - AP Curriculum Years 7-10 or Mr Steven Carroll - AP Curriculum Years 11-12
Vocational Education	
(including ASBAs)	Ms Jane Waddleton - VET Coordinator
Covid-19 related queries	Mr James Keeley – Deputy Principal

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Nathan Greatz	Assistant Principal Pastoral Care Years 9-12	Nathan.greatz@daramalan.act.edu.au
Angela Dunn	Assistant Principal Pastoral Care Years 7-8	angela.dunn@daramalan.act.edu.au

Cuthbert	Sean Connochie <a href="mailto:sean.connochie@daramalan.act.edu.au">sean.connochie@daramalan.act.edu.au</a>	Josh Sands <a href="mailto:josh.sands@daramalan.act.edu.au">josh.sands@daramalan.act.edu.au</a>
Farrer	Carolyn Hall <a href="mailto:Carolyn.hall@daramalan.act.edu.au">Carolyn.hall@daramalan.act.edu.au</a>	Gerard Beattie <a href="mailto:Gerard.beattie@daramalan.act.edu.au">Gerard.beattie@daramalan.act.edu.au</a>
Goolagong	Matthew Maggs <a href="mailto:matthew.maggs@daramalan.act.edu.au">matthew.maggs@daramalan.act.edu.au</a>	_____

