



SHALOM COLLEGE

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3 February 2022

Shalom 'Back to School' 2022

Dear Parents & Caregivers

I hope the information below will be useful to you as an outline to how Shalom will navigate the first four weeks of 2022.

- All students back to face to face instruction from Monday February 7.
- Our expectation is that masks are to be worn by staff and students under the current State Public Health directive.
- Please ensure that your child has a mask to bring to school each day.

Face masks



Students in Years 3–6 will be provided with masks and strongly encouraged to wear them when physical distancing is not possible.

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

All school staff 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 when outdoors.

There are a number of **exceptions**, including for children under 12 (unless they are in Year 7) and people with specific medical conditions or disabilities.

- Under the legislation, some students may be exempt from wearing a mask at school. If a child has a medical condition, it would be expected that notification of this would already be on a student's file. If this is not the case, as a matter of duty of care, it would be appreciated if relevant medical information is provided to the College so that we can ensure the required procedures are in place to cater for this medical condition.
- Students will not be required to wear masks when seated or engaged in strenuous physical activity.

- Students do not need to wear masks when eating or drinking.
- Masks will need to be worn in situations where social distancing is difficult ie movement between classes

There are quite a number of students at Shalom and some staff who have very compromised immunity. They are at particular risk during this time. Whilst many may find wearing a mask a burden, to alleviate the risk to all and particularly those members of our community who are especially vulnerable, we all need to be responsible and thoughtful members of the community. These are our Catholic values of this College in action.

If a student has a defined medical exemption and is unable to wear a mask, we would ask parents to contact Mrs Austin-Campbell acampbelle@shalomcollege.com and advise of this situation. A 'mask exemption' pass will be issued to those students which they would need to carry with them at all times.

The College, in complying with the current State Government guidelines, will limit visitors to the College. We have all improved our skills in video conferencing and this may provide a suitable alternative for many face to face meetings.

Year 8 Outdoor Ed activities scheduled to take place a Chaverim can continue over the next few weeks on 'day basis'. Students will be transported to Chaverim at the start of the day and returned to the College by 3.00 pm.

The public health direction requiring students and staff displaying symptoms of a contagious condition to not be at school is still in place. As was the situation last year, you will be called to collect your child if they are displaying symptoms. If school stocks are available, you will be provided with a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) for you to administer for your child. If stocks of RATs are not available at school, you can attend a Queensland Health testing facility where school students will be given priority access to testing. Please be aware even if your child has a negative COVID test they cannot attend school if they are unwell. Students must be symptom free (or have a letter from their doctor confirming they are not contagious) in order for them to be able to return to school.

The current restrictions are in place, at this point, for the next four weeks up until Friday March 4. Like you, we will wait for further direction from the State Government on this.

I have had a few queries from parents concerned that Shalom would compulsorily vaccinate students against Covid without parent permission. I am not sure how anyone could think that this is a possibility in any school in Australia. Vaccinations have never occurred for students in Australian schools previously without written approval from parents and I can't imagine that will ever change.

This has been a difficult start to the 2022 school year. We will do all that we can to get things on a much more normal footing as soon as we can. In this, we will rely on the

goodwill and support from all members of this community. Please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's House Coordinator if you have any further queries.

In anticipation, thank you so much for your cooperation and support.

Yours faithfully



Dan McMahon
PRINCIPAL

