



SHALOM COLLEGE

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Dear Parents and Caregivers

I hope that the Christmas vacation period has been an enjoyable, blessed and rewarding time for every family and a time to rest and celebrate well. 2022 is upon us and all the potential that this holds. I hope that your child(ren) are looking forward to the start of the year at Shalom and to renewing friendships and making new ones as well as achieving their best academically. Thank you for your ongoing support as we work together to respond to the evolving COVID-19 situation.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our Year 7 students along with quite a number of new students in Years 8 to 12. This will be an exciting, but daunting, time for all of those people. We will also be welcoming quite a number of new staff to Shalom as the College continues to grow.

Enrolments 2022: Please advise the office as soon as possible if your child will not be returning to Shalom this year.

Parent Lounge: The Parent Lounge is where you will find information such as the school calendar, daily notices, your child's assessments and school reports. The Parent Lounge will also be used to give permission for excursions and update any contact and medical details (see link below). For new parents and students, you will be receiving an email from our IT Department with your Parent Lounge and Student login details.

[Parent Lounge login](#)

Confirmation of Enrolment for 2022 Fees: Thank you to those families who have already completed this form at the end of 2021. It is essential that this form be completed for our Finance Department as soon as possible to both confirm your student's place at Shalom College in 2022, to advise your method of payment and to ensure that you will receive discounts you are entitled to should you have more than one child at a Catholic School or College in the Diocese of Rockhampton.

[Confirmation of Enrolment for 2022 Fees](#)

Parent Volunteers: We are enormously grateful for parents who are able to offer some time to support the Shalom Parents & Friends Association in their endeavours this year. It would be greatly appreciated if you could volunteer a small amount of your time in 2022, please see link to

Google form below. A big thank you to those parents who have previously volunteered and we ask that you fill out the form below if you would like to continue to volunteer in 2022.

[P & F Volunteer Form](#)

As announced by the Premier on Sunday 9 January, the start of the 2022 school year in Queensland will move from 24 January to 7 February to avoid opening schools during the predicted peak of the Omicron wave and allow more time for children to receive their COVID-19 vaccinations.

Our school will remain open from 24 January to 4 February for children of essential workers and vulnerable children during this period.

Essential workers are only those who absolutely must continue to attend their workplace during this time and are therefore unable to be at home with their children. The Queensland Government has asked all parents to consider the Chief Health Officer's advice and keep your children at home if you can.

If you need to send your child to school you must ensure your child is well and not displaying any signs of illness.

School staff will supervise any students who attend school. Teaching and learning activities will not be provided during this time, and there will be no remote learning for students who remain at home for parents to supervise. Students will be in mixed age groups supervised by a variety of staff. Students should wear a mask, casual sun safe clothing, closed in shoes and bring a hat and their morning tea and lunch as the tuckshop will not be operating. If you are an essential worker and wish for your child to be supervised at school please complete the following google doc

[Student Attendance Register](#)

The safety, wellbeing and duty of care of our students and school community remains our top priority. I remind you of the following COVID-safe guidelines for those parents who are essential workers or children will need to attend school for supervision purposes:

- Social distancing is required when dropping off or picking up your child from school
- Masks must be worn at all times by parents / caregivers and students
- Students can attend school regardless of their vaccination status, and
- Parents / caregivers can drop off their child / children, regardless of their vaccination status

Under the current guidelines all Staff and Students are required to wear a mask when indoors. When seated indoors, if 1.5m distance can be maintained, masks can be removed. Masks can be removed when outdoors if 1.5m distance can be maintained from others. If your child does come to school without a mask they will be asked to present to the office and purchase a disposable mask. I am very conscious that mask wearing won't be popular for students but I hope that, by now, we are all a bit more used to it.

SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT

MONDAY - 31 January to 4 February

From Monday 31 January, Year 11 and 12 students will undertake remote learning from home for one week until the revised formal start of the school year on 7 February. Year 11 and 12 Students will be contacted prior to 31 January regarding remote learning information.

MONDAY - 7 February

Year 7 and 12 Only

- What to Wear - A Mask and Sports Uniform
- What to Bring - Sports Bag, Sports Hat, Water Bottle, Notepad and Pen, Lunch and/or money for Tuckshop
- Arrive by 8.30 am
- Gather in the Sports Centre
- House flags will be set up so please congregate near your house flag

New Students (Year 8-10)

- What to Wear - A mask and Formal Uniform (Boys are not required to wear a tie in Terms 1 and 4)
- Year 8 and 9 Students will be issued with their Laptops. Year 10 students who have elected to partake in our Laptop Leasing Program will be issued with their laptop. Year 10 students who have chosen to partake in our Laptop Leasing Program will be issued with their laptop. Year 10 students who have chosen BYO device, please bring your devices on this day.
- Report to Loyola Centre by 8.15am

All Other Students (Year 8-11)

- What to wear - A Mask and Formal Uniform (Boys are not required to wear a tie in Terms 1 and 4)
- On first bell, students are to move to their respective House blocks to put their College bags outside their PC rooms and wait for further instructions

Student Timetables

- Will be available on SIA probably towards the end of next week. Sometimes students decide to change subjects because of who may be in their classes. This is a very poor reason for making such a decision and won't be approved by the College.

Student Presentation: as the new school year rolls around can I thank parents in advance for the efforts you will go to in ensuring that your child is well presented as they start school. Hair, uniform, make-up and jewellery guidelines are clear and have been in place for a long period. Traditional black leather college shoes should be cleaned and ready to go. Again, I am very grateful to parents for their support of the standards we expect at Shalom. Please ensure that all items including uniforms and hats are clearly named.

After School Activities: you will soon receive an email from our Student Welfare Coordinator, Mr Peter Robinson, outlining this initiative open to Shalom families. We will offer a range of

activities to students after school. This initiative is being financially supported by the Shalom Parents & Friends Association. There is a nominal cost but hopefully this will be strongly supported by families looking for some additional activities for their children.

Newsletter: The College Newsletter is the primary means of communication with parents and I encourage every parent to read the Newsletter each week to keep up to date with what is happening at the College.

Additionally, please follow the Shalom College social media pages listed below. The Shalom College website is also a valuable resource of information - you can find extra [2022 Information](#) under the "Latest News" tab.

- [Shalom College Instagram](#)
- [Shalom College Facebook](#)
- [Shalom College Sport Facebook](#)

I realise these latest developments may create challenges for many families. Please be assured these decisions have been taken as a necessary response to the evolving COVID-19 situation. There is some likelihood that as we move through this Covid period, Shalom may experience challenges like most other industries. I won't be surprised if a number of our staff contract Covid and have to isolate over coming weeks. This will cause disruption to teaching and learning but we will do our best to mitigate these disruptions but I do ask for your patience and understanding. In the next two weeks teachers will be working hard to ensure that their SIA class pages are up to date and contain material for students to continue with their studies even if their teacher is unwell. Similarly, if students are required to isolate at home and are able to do some schoolwork, they will be able to keep up to date by following their class pages and Unit page on SIA.

I will continue to keep you updated as our response to the current wave of COVID-19 evolves.

I encourage you to stay informed of the latest developments relating to COVID-19 by regularly visiting the [Queensland Government Website](#).

Thank you for understanding as we continue to work together during this difficult time. I hope that 2022 will be a great year for all in this community and for those times when it is not, I hope that each individual will feel the love and care that has come to characterise Shalom.

Kind Regards



Dan McMahon
PRINCIPAL