E Newsletter 2020 13 August | Issue 5



Important dates:

Monday 17 August School Board Meeting

Friday 21 August Health & Wellbeing Expo

Thursday 03 September School Photo Day

Monday 14 September P&C Meeting

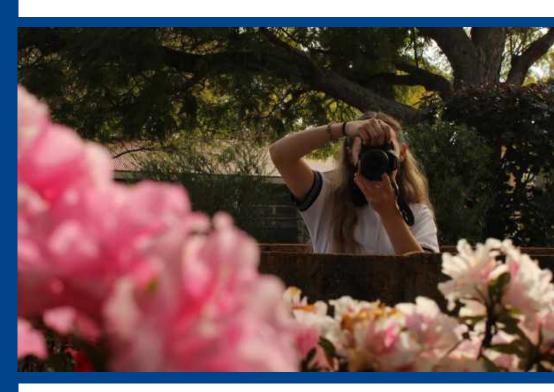
Monday 21 September School Board Meeting

Friday 25 September Students Last Day Term 3

Monday 12 October School Development Day

Tuesday 13 October Students First Day Term 4

Thursday 17 December Students Last Day of Term 4



PRINICIPAL'S MESSAGE

Digby Mercer

Welcome New Staff

Two key staff members have joined us for the remainder of the Year. Mrs Leonie Kelly has replaced Ms Colleu who has been recruited by the South Australian Department of Education to provide coaching for teachers in literacy development. Mrs Kelly has visited the school on several previous occasions to look at the work of the Intensive Learning Team and implement a similar program at Gilmore College.

Miss Annalysse Davies has joined the school from Byford College to take on the Student Services Manager position. Miss Davies has had experience at several secondary schools and experience in student services at Byford.

EMITS Just Start It

Congratulations to the Year 10 EMITS group on their efforts in the Just Start IT competition. Whilst Como has achieved success in previous years, this is the first year in which all five teams have reached the finals. This illustrates the commitment and hard work of both the students and of Mr Brent Skufca, Digital Technologies. Well done to Team "Food Unity" who won the competition and good luck with the development of your app.

COVID-19

I believe that with the situation in Victoria, we need to maintain a conservative approach and behave as if COVID-19 could start circulating in the community at any time. I have been asked by the Department of Education to remind the school community of the current requirements to maintain good hygiene practices and physical distancing of adults. Daily cleaning regimes, access to hand sanitiser and actively promoting hand hygiene, physical distancing and coughing/sneezing etiquette through signage will serve to keep Western Australia and this school as safe as we can during Phase 4 of the WA Roadmap to Recovery.

The latest update strongly advises that adults in schools should continue to keep up physical distancing of 1.5 metres where possible. All members of the school community must continue to practice good personal hygiene to better protect themselves and the general health of society.

Where possible, I am also asking teachers to physically separate students in classrooms as much as possible. That includes separating desks. There are times however, when students need to do group work and will sit closer together, which is allowed under the guidelines of the Department of Education.

School Upgrade Package

One million dollars has been allocated to the school as part of the WA Recovery Package announced this week. This is in addition to the \$1,048,406 that was allotted to Como Secondary College as part of last year's Maintenance Blitz. The money is for refurbishment. There is flexibility in how the money can be spent.

A complication in spending the money is that a master plan has been developed for the school which would involve significant re-development should the plan be enacted. There is no point in spending this money on areas that may be re-developed in the near future. Two areas that would be untouched in any re-development are the canteen and the industrial workshop so these are the areas in which the money could be spent. The master plan is based on the school growing to 1,500 students. A, B and D blocks together with the administration block would be demolished and replaced with new facilities. The remaining areas would be refurbished and converted to other uses such as a dance studio, practice rooms and computer laboratories. It should be emphasised that the

development of a master plan does mean that a re-build of the school is imminent – that will be a decision of the Government.

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Photographs by Iesaha Basrewan Valentina Hurrelbrink Matilda Oakes Trinity Van der Leeden Pages 1, 4, 6 & 11

SEQTA

Mrs Nicole Richardson has kindly agreed to take on the task of SEQTA Coordinator. This is a big job but I know that Nicole will do a great job with her expertise in digital technology and previous experience with SEQTA. A team of interested teachers have already been to Rossmoyne to look at what they have done. Next week the team will be visiting Kent Street who have been using SEQTA for the past 3 years and found it particularly useful for online learning last term.

The aim will be to implement SEQTA from the start of next year starting with the recording of student absences. SEQTA will replace Connect. It is much more "user-friendly" than Connect and parents will find that communication with teachers easier and they will have a much better overview of their child's attendance, progress and assessments.

Visits from Kate Doust MLC and Greg Milner, Mayor of South Perth

Kate Doust MLC visited the school last Friday. Ms Doust has strongly advocated for the provision of funds for school improvements. Mayor Greg Milner also visited last Friday to discuss the Golf program with Mr Smith and myself as well as other ways the City of South Perth and the school can work together for mutual benefit. This includes making Bruce Street safer for pedestrians and drivers.



School Finances Explained

As with the rest of the community, the school has had to tighten its budget and adjust spending as sources of revenue have dried up. Over my twelve years at this school there have been significant changes in the way schools have been funded. On becoming an independent public school, we went from a complex funding formula to a one-line budget and at the same time costs were transferred from central office to schools.

As time has gone on all schools have gone to a one-line budget and new requirements were introduced. Over the past 5 years this has included reducing funds in reserve accounts and ensuring that a minimum of 96% of the allocated yearly one-line budget is spent in that year. Another significant change for the school has been the decline in international fee-paying students. Como has long been a leader in this area and we have received hundreds and thousands of additional dollars over the years from this source. However, a fee rise five years ago made WA uncompetitive with the rest of Australia and the current COVID-19 restrictions will effectively put an end to what was already a reducing market. The one thing that hasn't changed over the 12 years has been the \$235 voluntary contribution.

The majority of the school's funding come from "per student funding". Up to an enrolment threshold of 1,200, every school receives \$9,211 for every student in Years 7 to 10, and \$9,903 for every student in Years 11 and 12. Under this formula the school received \$8,212,604. Added to this the school was given \$495,055.72 based on student characteristics of Aboriginality,

disability, English as a Second Language or Dialect (EALD) or social disadvantage. As a mid-sized secondary school the Department also provides additional funds when per student funding may be insufficient to meet basic school operating costs. The amount for Como is \$380,802.

The school also receives funding for targeted initiatives including the chaplaincy, graduate teachers and Level 3 teachers amounting to \$66,695. It also receives \$178,128 for Vocational Education and Training and \$20,631 for being a smaller school.

In total the school receives \$9,463,665 in student-centred funding for appointed staff and casual relief payments. The vast majority of this, \$9,266,398 goes towards salaries with \$237,542 going into cash for things like utilities, equipment purchase and repair, cleaning equipment and maintenance of the school grounds. A school's budget for these purposes can be supplemented by (for example) special grants and local fundraising.

Locally raised funds from the collection of voluntary contributions, fees and charges, donations, facility hire, international fee-paying students and bank interest amounts to \$757,460. These are used to pay the running costs of the learning areas and specialist programs. These funds cannot be used for salaries, capital works and administration costs.

For further information with regard to the College finances please click <u>here</u>



ADMIN & FINANCE NEWS

Jo May - Corporate Services Manager

Contributions and Charges

It is government policy that parents should contribute towards the cost of educating their children. Given that all students benefit from the pool of collected fees, it is fair to expect that all parents should pay the balance of contributions and charges. Contributions and charges form a large part of the school's income for learning and teaching programs in the school and supports the school in its focus to provide a quality education for all. The College is currently accepting payments for the 2020 school year.

Turn one big payment into easy instalments, you may like to consider starting a payment plan NOW to assist with completing all payments.

Payments are accepted by cash, Visa, Mastercard, Qkr and direct deposit: BSB: 066 102 | A/C: 00903523 |Ref: student name

Attendance

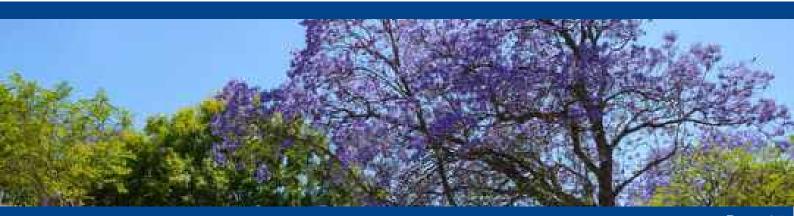
- contact the Hub's 24 hour Attendance Hotline 9365 2011 or go to the Connect homepage to advise reason for student absence before 9.00am.
- for early departure provide student with a written note to request permission to leave class.
- write an explanation for absence and send it via your child as soon as they return to the College \cdot
- please respond promptly to Absentee Letters

Contact Details

Please advise changes via email to como.sc.admin@education.wa.edu.au, or Change of Details form available at Administration. Many future communications may be sent by email – please ensure the College has your current email address.

Student pick up & drop off

Parents are reminded to please use the designated areas for pick up and drop off and not the Staff Car Park near Administration. We realise the temptation particularly when the weather is unfavourable, however it can cause more congestion in an already busy area of the school. Your cooperation is much appreciated.



COURSE PREFERENCES FOR 2021

Grace Bradley - Deputy Principal

Senior School Course Selection for 2021

This is well under way. All students in Year 10 need to log on to Subject Selection Online (SSO) and express their preferences. Students – if you do not have your PIN, you need to get it from the Hub. Parent PINs (your digital signatures) were emailed in Week 1 this term. Please look in your Junk email box first, then contact the office if you can't find it.

After SSO closes at 7pm on Sunday 9 August, the process of placing students will take quite some time. You can expect to be advised in Term 4 of your eventual courses for 2021 and 2022.

Year 9 and 10 Elective Selection for 2021

After SSO has closed for the Year 10s, you will be advised when it opens for Year 9, then Year 8, students to express their preferences for electives in 2021. Students will be provided with a PIN and instructions for logging in. Parents will be provided with a PIN that is their digital signature and instructions for wcompletion. A handbook will be made available on the website and on Connect.

Again, it will take some time to place students and you can expect to be advised in Term 4 of the electives you have been placed in.

It is always a difficult time of the year. We would love to have the resources to enable every student to study exactly what they want. However, resources limited and so decisions have to be made. In addition, we expect a relatively small Year 11 cohort in 2021 and this further reduces flexibilities. We are aware that this leads to some disappointment. We encourage Year 10 to make an appointment to discuss Year 11 with a counsellor. Bookings can be made in the Hub and parents can attend if they wish.



OLNA ROUND 2

Leslie Carruthers - Deputy Principal

Some students in Years 10, 11 and 12 are about to sit the OLNA.

OLNA stands for the Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment. In order to demonstrate the required literacy and numeracy standards for the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE), some students are expected to sit this assessment. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCASA) awards the WACE at the end of Year 12 to students who have met all the requirements.

Students who need to sit the OLNA will be provided with an individual timetable indicating the date, time and location of test component they need to complete.

The OLNA dates are determined by SCASA. Please ensure that your child is present at school during these times, so that they have every opportunity to complete the assessments to work towards meeting their literacy and numeracy requirements for WACE.

Writing: August 31 - September 2.

There can be no extension or 'catch up' after these dates.

Reading & Numeracy: September 4 - September 25 (excluding September 10, 11, 16,17, 18, 24 & 25).



For more information on School Photo Day on click here

EMITS

Helen Hudson - EMITS Coordinator

Excursions are back! We have been able to reschedule the excursion to Curtin University which was cancelled last term. We will be exposed to a range of activities and meet some amazing scientist and students. Details and excursion forms will be coming your way in the next few weeks. The dates for each group are as follows.

- 1st September Year 7's
- 2nd September Year 8's & 9's
- 4th September Year 10's

All the EMITS students have been challenged recently by participating in both "The Big Science Competition", and last week in the "Australian Maths Competition". We look forward to getting lots of Certificates in the near future.

Great news for the Year 10 EMITS group. Congratulations to Mr Skufca and the Year 10's for their amazing efforts in getting all five teams to the FINALS of the 'Just Start IT Competition'.













EMITS

This is a new first for Mr Skufca and Como Secondary College teams as although the Year 10 EMITS crew have had great results in previous years we have never had all teams make the finals. The finals were held 01 Saturday August. All students did an amazing job of presenting their app to the 6 judges who were from all walks of industry. Each group can be really proud of their efforts. It was fabulous to have a Como team win the final.

Congratulations to Team "Food Unity" who WON against really stiff competition. Stay tuned as we may well see a number of the apps developed and on our devices in the future.

You can support the team by joining their social media pages:

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/FoodUnityaus/ Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/foodu_aus/ You





THE ARTS

VISUAL ART Monique Laves - Visual Art Teacher & The Arts HoLA

Congratulations to three Year 12 Art and Design students have been selected to exhibit in the META Art and Design Awards Exhibition at North Metro Tafe, Gallery Central.

Tarvorreak Tuon (sculpture)
Tim Lawutai (painting)
Zohra Dost (photography)

At the end of last term students' art and photography work was entered into the META Awards Exhibition. The competition was quite fierce, with around 160 schools participating, so this is an excellent achievement.

Como's Art students were selected as part of the exhibition, which is on view until 22 August.

Opening Night was Tuesday 4th August. It was a great night with speeches celebrating the talent of the exhibiting students. An extremely high standard of work is on display. Sadly, due to Covid restrictions, only one student and one parent were permitted to attend the opening celebrations with their teacher. However, family members are encouraged to visit during the exhibition opening hours. Please see here for full information.

Congratulations and thank you to Ms Hocking for her ongoing commitment to the Arts.

Visit META and view the complete exhibition catalogue

https://www.gallerycentral.com.au/meta/









THE ARTS

Images of Jirdarup 2020 Photo Competition & Exhibition

GRAB YOUR CAMERA!

Take a walk through the Jirdarup Bushland and see what you find.

\$3,000 cash /prize pool

Entries Close 30 September 2020



www.perthnrm.com/blog/2020/07/28/images-of-jirdarup-2020-photo-competition-exhibition/





THE ARTS

MUSIC



Senior Concert Band Swamp Rabbit Stomp Project

In the last college newsletter, Senior Concert band had just started on their Swamp Rabbit Stomp project. This amazing project will make connections and produce a combined multimedia extravaganza with our selected isolated school partners: Eastern Goldfields College (Kalgoorlie), Broome High School, Narrogin High School and Allendale Primary (Geraldton).

To start the adventure, we were allowed to design and make our own shakers and also shakers to send to our 4 schools. Recently several music students have had fun spray painting the cans in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island colours. Emma and I have the pleasure of applying the white finger prints on every can.

Each musician in the band has produced a handprint to create a connection with the other

schools. We had several attempts at stencilling our hand prints on to paper using thick, sticky black paint. We also signed our name and the instrument that we played in the band. Then Emma and I spent a couple of lessons placing each individual finger prints to show our schools how to hold them, before filling each one with a specific amount of rice.

We have since heard that all of the shakers have arrived at the schools.

Below you can see the photos taken by Mr Powell's year 12 photography students Juna Lee and Megan Daun of Ms Turners Certificate 2 Music class showing the process and modelling with the final product.

Alice Annetts and Emma Smith Year 12 Music Students





























ENGLISH

Joan Armstrong - English HoLA

Como's Finest Writers

The English Learning Area is so excited to announce that Helen Zoljargal (Yr 11) and Lexi Flynn (Yr 8) are both finalists in the South Perth Young Writers Award. This is a prestigious award which encourages excellence in creative writing and is open to all students from Yrs 1 – 12 who live, or attend school, within the City of South Perth. There are five age categories for prose, with the Christobel Mattingley Bronze Medallion awarded to the entry judged to be the most outstanding. We are so proud that our students are finalists in two of the five age categories. Both Helen and Lexi will be attending the Presentation Ceremony on August 27th, where the overall winner of the Bronze Medallion will be announced.

Well done Helen and Lexi, we look forward to reading your narratives!





DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Francine Preston - Design & Tecnology Teacher

Year 7 Design & Technology Semester 1

Students had to complete a few projects in D&T. These included an acrylic key tag, a sheet metal man, an elastic band car racer and if they had time, a wooden mobile phone holder. Students worked really well to engineer a racer which travelled as far as possible. We used a new moulded shape wheel cutter for the small wheels and decorated them with paint or pyrography. The results were fabulous with the furthest distance travelled being close to three metres. Well done sevens.









HEALTH PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Bruce Emslie - Health & Physical Education HoLA

Como House Athletics Carnival

The rescheduled Athletics carnival is occurring on Friday of week 8, the 11th September. Will Flame Phoenix be able to reign supreme again or will they be reeled in by the Pine Lions or Jacaranda Joeys. It is a fantastic day to share with the community and every student is encouraged to join in on the day and attempt any event that they would like to. We encourage all students to come dressed in their House colours and there is a Best Dressed award announced at the conclusion of the carnival.

The HPE Department will be running some Pre-carnival events during weeks 5-7 at recess and lunchtimes. Please listen carefully to the Crier notices and come prepared to try your best to gain some valuable points for your House. The list of pre-carnival events and dates/times will also be posted on the Gym door.





Year 10 Lightning Carnival

In lieu of the Year 10 Lightning Carnival we offered an intraschool competition during Week 3 and we had some very willing participants turn up to play Basketball and Soccer. The students played with great respect toward each other and the officials and managed to demonstrate their fantastic range of skills that they have been practicing in PE classes. Thanks you to those teachers and ECU Practicum teachers that assisted with organising and officiating and a huge thanks to those students that participated so brilliantly.

HEALTH PHYSICAL EDUCATION

FITNESS CLASSES in PE

All of the Year 7-10 classes have been participating in Fitness classes during Term 3 and we can see some of the students in action in these photos.















Upcoming HPE Events

- **♦ Monday 17th August Fri 4th Sept Pre-Carnival events for Athletics Carnival**
- **♦ Monday 17th August School Sport WA Golf Championships**
- **♦ Monday 17th August School Sport WA Girls Hockey 1 Day Competition (Buchanan Cup)**
- ♦ Wed 19th Fri 21st August Year 12 Outdoor Education camp
- ♦ Monday 24th August School Sport WA Boys Hockey 1 Day Competition (David Bell Cup)
- **♦ Thursday 3rd September School Sport WA Buchanan Cup & David Bell Cup Final Day**
- **♦ Friday 11th September Como Secondary College Athletics Carnival**
- **♦ Friday 16th October School Sport WA 'D' Division Athletics Carnival**
- **♦ Thursday 22nd October Golf Family Day**
- ♦ Wed 28th Oct Fri 30th Oct Year 11 Outdoor Education Seatrek expedition
- ♦ Monday 10th November School Sport WA Junior Hockey 1 day Competition Final Day
- **♦ Monday 16th November Golf Corporate Fundraising Day**
- **♦ Wednesday 18th & Thursday 19th November Golf Academy Championships**
- **♦ Wednesday 9th December Golf Awards Night**

GOLF ACADEMY

Adam Smith - Teacher In Charge

Golf and Photography team up to promote the program

As part of the short and long term marketing of the golf program, Jai Hutchison combined his role as Como Golf Academy Captain and as a Year 12 photography student to create a short promotional video. As well as demonstrating collegiality between the two

subject areas, it has also given Jai the opportunity to receive credits for one of his photography assignments. Thank you to Mr Powell and to Jai for agreeing to support this initiative. Watch this space for Jai's awesome work!







GOLF ACADEMY

Como Golfers Treated to a 'Royal' Experience!

A huge thank you to Hannah Green, our Golf Academy Ambassador, who recently played a round of golf with the six recipients of the Hannah Green Performance Award at Royal Perth Golf Club. Sufiyah Ashaari, Randall Heng, Karissa Sanchez, Keanu Stevenson, Talia Negara (all year 9) and Jordan Tueno (Year 11) watched on as the current KPMG Women's PGA Champion showcased her talents and kindly shared her thoughts and expertise on a wide range of golf performance topics.

As a school and specialist program, we appreciate the time and guidance that Hannah gives to all of our golf academy members. We wish Hannah well as she heads back out on tour this week.

Thank you to Royal Perth for their warm welcome and awesome hospitality. Our relationship with the club, the members and staff continues to provide such wonderful opportunities for our students.







GOI F ACADEMY

Golf students continue to shine across WA

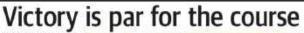
The Golf Academy continues to be well represented across the state's junior golf fixtures with many of our students entering Golf WA's flagship events. Students from all year groups have demonstrated their skills across a wide range of courses with many gaining invaluable experience and success along the way.

Congratulations to Como Golf Academy Captain Jordan Jung who has had a fantastic run of form during the last two months. Four consecutive wins, two of which were Golf WA ranking events, have ensured a memorable and successful final year as a junior golfer. As well as clinching the Cobra Puma Junior Championship and Drummond 54 Hole Classic, Jordan also claimed the Gosnells Junior Open and our own Upper Schools Golf Championships. His achievements were recently acknowledged in the Community News.

The success of our students is seen across the breadth and depth of the academy. Year 7 student Kloden Brown and Year 10 student Connor Vladich - McKenzie had fantastic results in the Cobra Puma Junior Championships with victories in the boys 13 and under nett category and boys 14 & 15 nett category respectively.

Year 8 student Sean Chew continued to show how his game is going from strength to strength with a best nett finish in the Mosman Park Junior Classic in July.

Well done to all players who consistently represent the Golf Academy in the highest regard, both in terms of performance and character.



uning three events just the gast mouth. The Riverton local took the Cobra Puma Junior

ampionalities, joining Tikes of Min Woe Lee, annth Green, Curtis ck and Minjee Lee as inters of the prestigious

dor Open and secured Drustenoed Golf 64 e Junior Classic crown

Academy is Golf Chir drips by an impressive 33 drots at Royal Porth Golf Juli in June, Jung, who is a Golf Acad-

iked hard every day my body was and oot as strong off to some of the

top juniors."

ng said while the punc meant interstate



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surnaments," he said.
"It is a long journey."
Jang said his dream was





COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

These times can be stressful for many families. If you require help during this period, the following information may be of assistance.

Emergency services and help lines:

Call 000 in an emergency if you feel someone is at risk of harm OR for mental health emergency assessment, support and referral contact:

- Urgent Mental Health Telephone Support Line supports children and young people under 18 years (family who have concerns can call 24 hours a day/7 days a week incl. public holidays) 1800 048 636
- Mental Health Emergency Response Line (MHERL) is 24/7 1300 552 002 (metro) Peel callers 1800 676 822 (free call).
- RuralLink for Rural and remote areas from 4:30 pm to 8:30 am (Mon to Fri) and 24 hrs (Sat,Sun and public holidays) 1800 552 002
- Find your GP after-hours clinic. Call after hours GP Helpline on 1800 022 222

If you need someone to talk to:

| Womens Domestic Violence Helpline | 1800 007 339 |
|--|---------------------------|
| Beyondblue | 1300 224 636 |
| Crisis Care Helpline Or Country Toll Free | 9223 1111 1800 199 008 |
| Headspace | 1800 650 890 |
| Kids Helpline | 1800 551 800 |
| Lifeline | 13 11 14 |
| Men's Line Australia | 1300 789 978 |
| Suicide Call Back Service | 1300 659 467 |
| The Samaritans | 135 247 (7AM to 7PM) |

Online support can be accessed through the WA Mental Health Commission

PARENTS & CITIZENS

Meetings - Next Meeting 10 August

The P&C meet once a month during term time on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7.30pm at the College in the Elicos Room. Attendance at these meetings is a great way to find out more about what is happening in the College, its future plans and how these will affect your child and your family. It is also a venue for parents to voice concerns, raise issues and discuss ideas both with the Principal and with other parents. The date of the next meeting is to be confirmed.

Second-hand uniforms

There is a second hand uniform shop located at the school. It is run by the P&C and all funds raised go towards projects to benefit all students. Non-students need to sign in at the front office and staff can assist as to where to find the shop.

The shop is run on donations only. Please consider donating any school uniforms that you no longer need, including any specialist program uniforms, e.g. black pants, white collared long sleeve shirts for music performances.

Donations: can be placed in the marked boxes in the Canteen or the front office during school hours or given to the shop when open.

Open every Friday 8.15am – 9am

Location: B Block

Enquiries: comoseconds@outlook.com

Payments: Cash only



COMO NOTICES

Please Remember the School Zone Speed Limit of

College Access

All visitors to the College MUST sign in at Administration.



Contact Details

Please advise changes via email to Como.SC.AdminSupport@education.wa.edu.au, or Change of Details form available at Administration. Please ensure the College has your current email address.

Contact During School Hours

Please DO NOT call the College to ask for a message to be given to your child. Please understand that with a College community of over 800 it is not possible to get messages to individual students. To avoid this issue, please ensure that after school arrangements are pre-arranged. This is part of helping students to become independent.

Drop-off

There is considerable vehicle traffic around our College site before and after school. It is expected that all vehicles use the Bruce Street car park or the marked drop-off bays to drop students off. Staff and Student car parks are NOT to be used for this purpose because it causes a great deal of congestion and potential danger to students.

Health

The Health Centre is open when the School Nurse is on site. When the Centre is open, students may access it at recess and lunch time without needing permission. If a student wishes to go during class time, permission with a note written in the College diary by their supervising teacher is required. If the Nurse is not available, students should see another member of the Student Services team or a Deputy Principal. Under no circumstances are students to contact parents/guardians directly and leave the College grounds without parents contacting the College and the student being properly signed out. In the case of injury, either a parent will be contacted or the student will be sent by ambulance to hospital, at the parent's expense.

NOTE: Please consider the health and wellbeing of others before allowing unwell students to attend school.