

Volume - 2020. 3

Date - 22 May 2020

COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

PENOLA

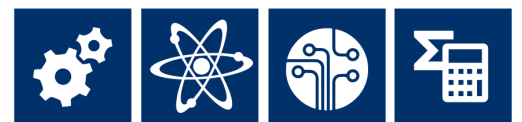
CATHOLIC COLLEGE

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WESTERN SYDNEY
PENOLA CATHOLIC COLLEGE

P-TECH

PATHWAYS IN TECHNOLOGY





Walking in the footsteps of Saint Mary MacKillop

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families of the Penola Community

It is with great excitement that I write to you about our progress and gradual return to the college for staff and students during the first weeks of Term 2.

It has been a time of immense challenge for all families as we come to terms with the impact of COVID-19 on each of our lives. Everyone in our community has been affected by this pandemic in some way. For some of us the impact has been enormous, where they have lost friends or relatives during this time and for others it may mean that employment has been compromised or elderly parents who you may not have been able to visit during this time. As the restrictions are now lifting in phases in the community, we will also follow this same process at the college to ensure students are able to return with confidence.

During the school holiday period, there have been some wonderful refurbishments that will benefit our students and their learning.

We have upgraded our basketball courts, the Textiles and Design Room, removed gates and freshly painted many of our learning spaces and line markings across the College. All of these make our wonderful College an enjoyable and welcoming environment for our students and staff at Penola upon your return.

I have been incredibly impressed with the way in which our students have embraced online learning through Google Classroom and Zoom. This challenging period of time has enabled our students to step up and become far more responsible and independent for their learning.

In our Week 3 and 4 return the majority of students who should be at school on the scheduled days for Stage groups have eagerly returned with great excitement and enthusiasm. I would like to acknowledge the incredible support of you, as the parents of this community, who have ensured your child has stayed connected to us and stayed on track with their learning throughout this most challenging time. The professional and dedicated staff of Penola have also worked with great passion and commitment preparing outstanding online learning and constantly providing feedback to your child. I am very grateful and appreciative of the positive manner that you have all displayed during this period of high stress. Your support and kind words of encouragement have affirmed the support staff and teaching staff alike !

From Mrs Cairns Continued



During this time we have also farewelled a long serving Support Staff member, Mrs Marie Hewett who has been with the college for 18 years. Marie has undertaken a variety of roles in this time in a professional and dedicated manner. Her presence welcoming students to our Student Office in recent years has allowed her to know our Penola families very well and communicate in a personable and warm manner. Marie has always enjoyed being an integral part of the college support team giving her absolute best to ensure a high level of care with staff, students and parents alike.

As a school community, we wish her well as she commences her well deserved retirement with her husband and family. We thank her for generously serving our college community with such passion and commitment over many years.

Mrs Melissa Mills replaces Marie Hewett in our Student Office and we warmly welcome her to our learning and faith community.



As we move forward we will soon be delivering face to face teaching and learning for our students Years 7-12 on Monday 25 May 2020. We know that when we move to this model we will all be a little apprehensive but we ask that everyone commits to learning in new and exciting ways with your class peers and teachers. The students have continuously proven to us that they are highly capable, resilient and independent learners who have embraced 21st century, contemporary learning at its best during the pandemic. St Mary MacKillop endured many hardships and challenges during her time establishing schools in Australia and needed to be a person of great courage and hope to endure such adversity. As a community named after St Mary MacKillop we have often drawn on her examples during this period of isolation reminding ourselves to be people of courage, compassion, hope and integrity in all that we do in our daily lives.

We continue to pray together and ask for God's strength, guidance and support as we take the next steps moving forward knowing that with God's love, we are capable of achieving the most amazing results in our lives.

May God bless you and keep you in the palm of his hand always.

Mrs Tania Cairns
Principal Leader





FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Dear Penola Parents and Students

I hope you and your child have felt well supported by our efforts to help them keep their learning on track.

Thank you for working with us throughout this 'staged' return to school for your children. During Week 3 and 4, we have had scheduled days of return for Stage 4 and 5 and a continuation of supervised online learning.

With greater than 80% of our Stage 4 and 5 students returning in Week 3, the next phase of our Learning Plan at Penola Catholic College for Week 5 onwards will continue to be responsive to the needs of our students and always mindful of community safety and directives from our Catholic Education Parramatta system leadership and government advice.

School Reports:

In response to these strange and complicated times, I have a couple of things to communicate to you. In Term 1, Years 7-11 received a Progress Report that included a Student Learning Performance mark out of 25 for each subject. As you have seen, we include five areas on our reports where teachers describe the learning behaviours of your child. In previous times schools called this a 'student profile' on the reports.

All of our teachers have worked on changing our Student Learning Performance areas to respond to the different modes of learning (face-to-face, remote online learning and then supervised online learning) during the COVID-19 period from Term 1 Week 8, 9, 10 and 11 and then into Term 2 Weeks 1 to 4. In the upcoming Years 7-11 Semester One reports you will notice a change in the wording of the Student Learning Performance areas. I have included these below.

Student Learning Performance Grade Descriptors for Semester 1 Reports Year 7-11, 2020

Organised and Ready for Learning in class and during Supervised Online Learning

Organised and ready with learning equipment or devices, arrives to class or online session on time and has a positive attitude and willingness to engage.

Classroom Learning and Task Completion in class and during Supervised Online Learning

Completes learning tasks to the best of the students' ability, focuses on tasks, asks questions for clarity and uses feedback to improve learning.

Home Based Task Completion and Online Task Completion

Completes homework and/or set online tasks, flipped learning and assessments at 'personal best' levels, hands in notes, completes incomplete classwork or tasks when reminded.

Works Collaboratively, Respectfully and Cooperatively in class and during Supervised Online Learning

Demonstrates respect, works in a team, contributes and listens to other student's and the teacher's opinions, in class and during remote learning sessions.

Works Independently and Responsibly

Listens to directions, focuses on the learning, responds to instructions and feedback, respects the learning of other students and works independently to the best of their ability.

From Mrs Sparkes Continued

For each of the five areas a teacher will give a mark out of 5, to give a total of 25. At our school, we calculate the average mark your child has received across all of the subjects studied and if the average is greater or equal to 22/25, your child is awarded 7 Penola Merit points. See your child's diary page 6 for more information.

The Year 7-11 reports look different to incorporate our new school name and we have moved our reporting system across to a CEDP centralised report management system. I look forward to your feedback and we are aiming to distribute reports home to families by Friday 26th June 2020 (Term 2 Week 9).

Change of Dates for Upcoming Events:

◇ ***Subject Selection Night for Years 8-10***

This has been moved to **Tuesday 23 June 2020** **5:00pm - 8:00pm**

◇ ***Parent Teacher Interview Night for Years 7-11***

This has been moved to **Tuesday 28 July 2020** **1:45pm - 7:30pm**

Interviews will begin at **1:45pm** and students will be dismissed to either go home or stay at school after **Learning Session 2 ends at 12:50pm**.

More information regarding booking a time for the interviews will be sent home with your child in the coming weeks.

Careers and Future Pathways:

Mr Marc Petit has been working very hard emailing our Year 10, 11 and 12 students in year groups through their school emails, with opportunities from employers and Universities.

Coming up in Term 2 Week 9 we are planning a Year 10 '*Planning My Future*' event and if you have any questions about Careers Advice please contact Mr Petit.

Year 12: *UAC University entries* are now open and students should be active with Early Entry Programs for University. Parents are welcome to email and ask questions.

Students 10-12 should check all Career newsletters they receive via their school emails.

Guest Speakers: Can you share your career guidance?

We would like to invite parents to step forward to speak or zoom to students during lunchtime about their career. If you would like to share with our students information about your career path for need more information about this please email Mr Petit, on mpetit@parra.catholic.edu.au.

Thank you for all of your feedback and support.

Mrs Peta Sparkes
Assistant Principal

LEADER OF STUDENT WELLBEING AND LEARNING

Year 12

It has been wonderful to have our students back at school and their overwhelming response has been incredibly engaging and positive. Returning to school has enabled them to seek clarification, guidance and support from their dedicated teachers. We have also continued our HSC Learning Coach Sessions to further support Year 12 which they have appreciated immensely. We are so proud of our Year 12 students who have been working so hard maintaining a strong learning focus through the challenge of COVID-19.

Year 12
received their
Commemorative jackets
and are wearing
them with pride.



Student “Points Update” Slip. This is the new slip that will be issued to your child.
Gold = 60 Points or more; Silver = 40 Points or more; Bronze = 20 Points or more; Level 4 = -19 to +19 Points



2020 Attendance Update (May 14)

John Citizen (7.1)

House: CASTLEREAGH - Yellow

Penola Points

Term 2, Week 3: 27 Points

Level: Five - Bronze

Distribution

1	2	3	4	Bronze	Silver	Gold
0	0	0	179	263	85	5

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Overall Total Points as of the date indicated.

Distributed Weekly.

Glued into student diaries.

Parents/Guardians to sign the slip and discuss the progress with their child.

Parents/Guardians receive emails about the points awarded by teachers.

No attendance data is included at this time.

Mr Martin Stein

PENOLA POINTS

GOLD AND SILVER AWARDS

We congratulate the following students for their high achievement and outstanding contribution to building our learning and faith Community.

We acknowledge and thank all students who continuously work in a responsible , respectful and safe manner promoting our values of Courage, Compassion, Hope and Integrity.

Gold Awards: Students who have achieved 60 points

Year 8 Katelyn Daggar
Sethumi Kodippili

Year 9: Chloe O'Hara
Byron Gillon
Brooke Morgan

Silver Awards: Students who have achieved 40 points

Year 7:	Maddison Auld	Callay Kennedy
	Kealey Beasley-Rose	Cooper Kennedy
	Vesna Bencun	Heidi Kowalczyk
	Cooper Berry	Morgan Leita
	Leah Bouchdan	Limkholwe Marowa
	Ethan Cook	Cyrena Matthews
	Isla Darwen	Tye McCabe
	Ebony Dunn	Mariella Nardi
	Cooper Fahy	Maurice Pitt
	Jenna Fisher	Sofiia Prybysh
	Sienna Footman	Jake Ravello
	Sophie Hotz	Charlee Stafford
	Leilahni Isaia	Olivia Talbert
	Anthea Karavas	Olivia Zirn

PENOLA POINTS

SILVER AWARDS

Silver Awards: Students who have achieved 40 points

Year 8:

Maya Bailey
James Cremen
Ella Dunlop
Georgia Finianos
Kiera Fleming
Samantha Gamage
Brock Grima
Corey Horsfall
Hunter Kean
Shriya Lal
Smily Leung

Keisha Maskell
Kavya Nalamati
Emma O'Toole
Marshall Pereira
Charlie Thomas
Mitchell Thomas
Taylah Whitehead
Elizabeth Wilson
Imelda Wright
Riley Xerri

Year 9:

Zavier Button
Jack Duggan
Melissa Giugovaz
Julia James
Montana Lister
Aleks Maksimovic
Cooper McLean

Chaya Ott
Zachary Price
Luke Randle
Luke Sammut
Zac Stevens
Lachlan Troy
Sebastian Zinghini-Silva

Year 10:

Olivia Auddino
Isabella Coey
Riley De Giorgio
Lachlan Desira
Arsh Dossani
Tanisha Dutt
Broc Geronimi

Zoe Hyde
Tristan Isaia
Adrian Jones
Torrance McLean
Ramya Sri Raparathi
Zac Thompson
Oliva Whitehouse

Year 11 & 12:

Emily Norris
Morgan Douglass
Liam Ferguson
Thelma Kwaramba
Joshua Lancaster
Lachlan McCrohon
Mikayla Morgan

LEADER OF INNOVATION AND DIVERSITY

Adaptability, commitment and professionalism, it's been a time when all of us, students, teachers, and parents alike, have had to find new ways of making things work. At the centre of this, has been our collective desire to ensure that students are supported in their learning and with their wellbeing.

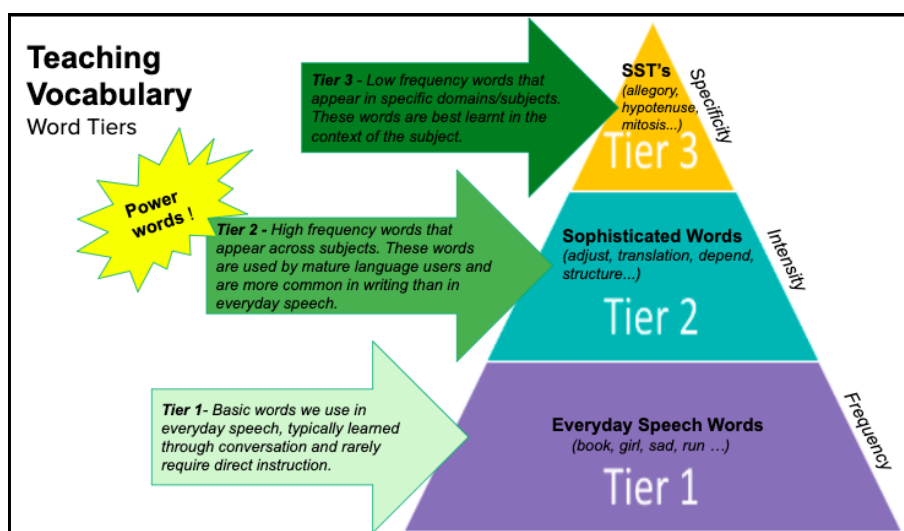
As a staff we were very ready to further develop our skills in delivering innovative teaching practice for the benefit of every learner in our community. We have relied on our expertise in Universal Design for Learning, and our whole school literacy focus by preparing materials that support a breadth of learner access.

In the staff room, in our meetings, during Zoom meetings, the language and practice of teaching and learning has sounded a little like... "audio, online pacing guides, targeted scaffolding, 'zooming', screen recording, visual checklists, text complexity, supported writing models, formative assessment and beyond.



For all of us it has been such a joy to see our students embrace our efforts and respond to our support as we ensured they were receiving the very best opportunities while working remotely. Innovation has continued to secure student learning outcomes. Thank you to our leaders, our teachers, our students and families for embracing these significant and targeted practices during this challenging time.

Ms Anna Keogh



LEADER OF PEDAGOGY AND INSTRUCTIONAL COACH

Wow..... what a whirlwind of a term that, not only Penola but education in genral has had. As a Leader of Pedagogy, I have never been so proud of our students, staff, the parents and families of our wider coummity in the manner in which we have supported eachother. All involved have made sure our students still continue to recieve the best learning they possibly can during these times.

1 Welcome Yr 11 & 12

I can easily say that every staff member here at Penola has been excited to see the return of our students. In particular our Yr 11 & 12 students who have returned to fulltime on-site learning, to ensure their HSC journey continues to take place the best possible way. We also welcome the rest of our students on a rostered cycle.



2 The Physical Classroom

I have spoken about how COVID-19 made education move to 22nd Century learning within a matter of 2 weeks. Through this learning we have acknowledged our students' resilience and independance with their learning. However, it has also highlighted the importance of the classroom teacher's role, social connections schools provide for our students, routine & change of physical space home to classroom.

3 Staff Professional Learning

Our staff have been extremly busy and dedicated to our learning here at Penola. Not only have they had to learn to navigate online learning platforms but they have also continued to keep the underlying focus on reading and writing, engaging via zoom PL sessions with Dr Misty Adoniou



Finance Matters

Continued thanks to those families that continue to pay the school fees through these trying times. Catholic Education Diocese Parramatta (CEDP) advise they will be sending out fee statements shortly. If you have any queries about your statement please contact Mrs Julie Jones at the College on 4728 8100 Option 2.

CEDP has set a process for families seeking financial assistance during this difficult time. We have communicated this process in previous correspondence via SkoolBag. If you require assistance through CEDP please click this [link](#) for further information on how to apply.

In relation to excursions for students, under the direction of CEDP we will be monitoring any cancellations to these events and we will determine if a credit should be applied accordingly. We will keep parents informed.

Mr Sean McNally
Business Manager

MATHS HELP

In the library

Every Monday afternoon

during school terms

From 3.15pm until 4.15pm

Years 7-12 students are

all Welcome

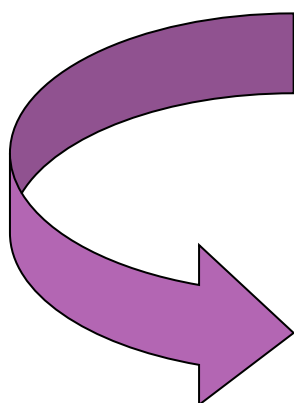


Canteen and Uniform Shop Update

As a result of COVID-19 both the Canteen and Uniform Shop are only accepting EFTPOS.

CANTEEN:

The canteen has introduced a reduced menu and increased their cleaning and social distancing practices.



UNIFORM SHOP:

The uniform is trading as per normal and encourages online orders via [online orders](#).

They are also following the government's social distancing rules and only allow 2 customers in the store at the one time. We will also have hand sanitiser available for all customers to use when they enter and exit the store.

UNIFORM SHOP TRADING HOURS

Tuesday 12noon to 4.00pm

Thursday 8.00am to 12 noon

Telephone Direct Line—4735 8220

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...



MAY 2020	
Monday 25 May	Students return to school for Face to Face Learning Full winter uniform
JUNE 2020	
Friday 5 June	Staff Professional Learning Day (Pupil Free)
Monday 8 June	Public Holiday - Queens Birthday
Tuesday 23 June	Subject Selection for 2021 for Years 8, 9 and 10 Time: 5pm to 8pm
JULY 2020	
Tuesday 28 July	Parent Teacher Interviews for Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 Time: 1.45pm to 7.30pm Students dismissed at 12.50pm
Friday 3 July	Term 2 Concludes for all students
Tuesday 21 July	Term 3 Resumes for all students
PUPIL FREE DAYS 2020	
Friday 5 June	Staff Professional Learning Day (Pupil Free)
Monday 20 July	Staff Professional Learning Day (Pupil Free)
Friday 20 November	Staff Professional Learning Day (Pupil Free)
Term Dates For 2020	
Term 3	Resumes 21 July 2020 and concludes 25 September 2020
Terms 4	Resumes 12 October 2020 and concludes 16 December 2020