



Mr Ian Margetts
Principal

29th May 2020

Principal's Report

It is certainly great to see our Year 7-10 day students return this week, as well as 12 boarding students between both Morrissey and Bernard's dorms. Many staff have worked hard to complete risk minimisation strategies to send to the Tropical North Public Health Unit. We are pleased to report that their compliance team are happy with our plans and so students are beginning to return and our numbers steadily grow. We acknowledge that it is still complicated in Bio-security areas for boarding students to return and we continue to work with families in those areas as to when it will be best for our very remote students to return.

We continue to support strategies to minimising risk within the day school. These include:

- single desks
- hand sanitiser and disinfectant in all classrooms
- cancelling school excursions, sporting activities and other large gatherings
- liturgies and assemblies via Zoom
- specific library cleaning routines (including book and resource management)
- update environmental cleaning plan to ensure cleaning of frequently used high-touch surfaces

Strategies to reduce risk in boarding include:

- distribution of students to maximise social distancing
- review numbers regularly and adapt strategy as numbers increase
- all boarders will have a single room, and the room sizes will comply with or exceed 4m² rule daily health screening questionnaire to ensure students are in good health
- strongly discourage weekend leave - signed out by immediate family only
- no off-site weekend activities
- essential off-site appointments only (e.g. medical)
- isolation policy and procedure
- designated bathrooms and sinks
- increased cleaning roster
- Common Rooms to adhere to social distancing and limit to persons in room

If you have any questions regarding returning to face-to face learning the please do not hesitate to contact the College.

As advised in a recent letter to parents and carers, to support the students in catching up on a very disrupted Term 2, the 'boarders student free week' will now be cancelled and classes will now resume on Tuesday 14th July. This is the same week that other schools will return in Queensland.

The new dates are:

- Monday 13th July- Boarder Travel Student Free Day
- Tuesday 14th July- Classes resume



Ian Margetts - Principal



This week, 27 May – 3 June, is National Reconciliation Week 2020. The theme for this year is *In This Together*. Reconciliation Australia (<https://www.reconciliation.org.au/>) state that the theme articulates that ‘every one of us has a role to play when it comes to reconciliation, and in playing our part we collectively build relationships and communities that value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories and cultures’.

At Mount St Bernard College we are privileged to witness and support the great cultural diversity among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities. We attempt to always try and work in a culturally appropriate and effective manner with the development of quality relationships between student, teacher, family and communities are at the heart of this.



Reconciliation Prayer

Holy Father, God of Love, You are the Creator of all things.

We acknowledge the pain and shame of our history and the sufferings of Our peoples, and we ask your forgiveness.

We thank you for the survival of Indigenous cultures.

Our hope is in you because you gave your Son Jesus to reconcile the world to you.

We pray for your strength and grace to forgive, accept and love one another, as you love us and forgive and accept us in the sacrifice of your Son.

Give us the courage to accept the realities of our history so that we may build a better future for our Nation.

Teach us to respect all cultures.

Teach us to care for our land and waters.

Help us to share justly the resources of this land. Help us to bring about spiritual and social change to improve the quality of life for all groups in our communities, especially the disadvantaged.

Help young people to find true dignity and self-esteem by your Spirit.

May your power and love be the foundations on which we build our families, our communities and our Nation, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(Wontulp Bi-Buya Indigenous Theology Working Group 13 March 1997 Brisbane, Qld. <http://www.natsicc.org.au/>)

Ian Margetts - Principal

ACKNOWLEDGE COUNTRY: TODAY, EVERY DAY

“ We at Mount St Bernard College acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the Land on which we stand. We acknowledge the people of the Jirrbal nation and pay our respects to Elders past and present and emerging.”

National Acknowledgement of Country - This year to launch National Reconciliation Week, we were asked to take to social media to acknowledge Country. We can't be physically together to show respect but we can show respect to where we are. At 12 pm on Wednesday 27 May we took the time to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the Land that we are on. [#InThisTogether2020](#) [#NRW2020](#)



Assistant Principal - Student Wellbeing Report

School is not just the place where students acquire academic skills, it also help students become more resilient in the face of adversity, feel more connected with the people around them, and aim higher in their aspirations for their future.

School is also the first place where children experience society in all its facets and their experiences can have a profound influence on their attitudes and behaviour in life.

Factors that make a difference to student wellbeing comes down to teachers, parents and school.

Students that have positive relationships with their teachers are much more likely to feel that they belong.

Students are much less likely to struggle if they feel confident enough in the school environment to seek individual support from their teachers.

Parents can make a big difference too. Students whose parents spend time just talking to their child, eat a main meal with them and discuss how well they are doing at school make the student feel higher levels of satisfaction.

Finally, communication between parents and school, student and parents, and student and teacher makes a big difference on everyone doing the best they can to support the student.

Dan Niemerg - Assistant Principal - Student Wellbeing



Mr Dan Niemerg



Middle Leader - Student Wellbeing Report

This time of Covid restrictions has shown how mental health is as important as physical health in having a positive life experience.

Practising Gratitude:

- encourages better mental health by **shifting your attention** away from toxic emotions, such as resentment and envy.
- helps you **appreciate the people** in your life
- helps train the brain to be **more open** to the experience of gratitude down the line

Practising Empathy:

- helps us get in touch with our feelings and gives us an **emotional understanding** of ourselves and others.
- develops the ability to **hold a safe space** for others to feel their own emotions completely and to be able to understand their experience.
- helps develop a **sense of connection** and assist in decreasing the charged emotions of the other person.

Practising Mindfulness:

- helps us to change our usual responses by **taking the time** to think and **choose how we act** in a situation.
- makes us better able to **label the thoughts and feelings** instead of allowing them to overpower us and control our behaviour.
- helps us to **release judgment** and learn to **live in the moment** rather than in the "what ifs ..."

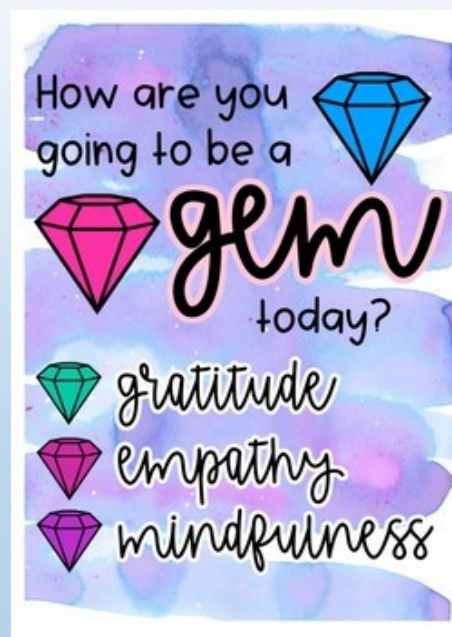
Be patient and remember that the benefits of **Gratitude**, **Empathy** and **Mindfulness** might take time to kick in.

In Term 3, Years 10, 11 and 12 will be learning more about these and other ways to have a healthy mind with **The Resilience Project**. If you would like any more information please visit the site <https://theresilienceproject.com.au/> or contact Ms Rossiter at the College.

Jenny Rossiter - Middle Leader - Student Wellbeing



Ms Jenny Rossiter



Residential News



Mr Scott Whitters

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of MSB

This week we welcomed students back to boarding. I would like to thank all families for their ongoing support and communication with MSB this term. Please continue to communicate with us regarding the return of your student and the current situation within your communities.

I must thank our staff at MSB for their commitment and dedication to our students throughout this crisis situation. The residential staff have continued to work on alternate tasks which have improved our facilities and the learning environment for our students.

Our school will operate differently over the coming months with enhanced hygiene and social distancing practices. All returning students and families must report to the Health Clinic upon arrival. I thank all families and students who have abided by our new routines and regulations.

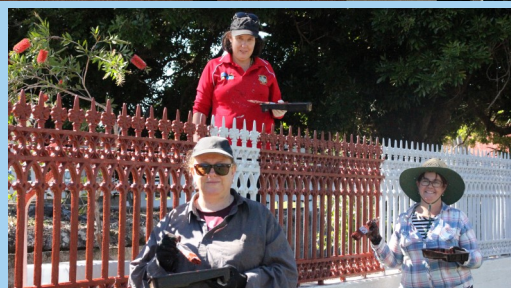
We are managing very well to adhere to social distancing expectations and ensure health and hygiene is a priority within all areas of the College.

A reminder regarding weekly boarders. If your student departs on Friday afternoon, they are not able to return until 8am on Monday when the Health Clinic is open.

Please contact me if you have any queries regarding your student returning to MSB this term.

Kind regards

Scott Whitters - Assistant Principal - Residential



Assistant Principal - Mission

What is the “Mercy charism”? What does it look like?

As many would know, I’ve been engrossed in historical research as we prepare various events, celebrations and displays for our college’s centenary next year. Since the Sisters of Mercy left MSB 18 months ago, one of the very important tasks for us has been to gather up the history and the stories of our great college and to present them in ways that they can be remembered **and** carried on. But what’s most important is that last part: “carried on” - what does this Mercy thing look like here and now?



Deacon
Michael Lindsay

The Aussie saint, Mary MacKillop, had a saying that in many ways goes straight to the heart of what Mercy looks like: **“Never see a need without doing something about it”** (St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop). And anyone who knew some of the Sisters here at Herberton, like Sr. Barty, would know that this saying was lived 24/7 by them. I even heard of one Nun (affectionately known as Sr “Chooky”) who was so always looking for opportunities to raise money for the world’s most needy that she was even known to ask a price for the return of items confiscated during lessons or study so that the money could be sent off to the missions. Maybe this last example is not something we’d endorse today; but still, the heart of Mercy was there—eyes always open to ways we can support those in need.

So earlier this week we received word from various groups that work with the homeless in our region: with the cold snap coming in quite suddenly and strongly there’s an urgent need for blankets to distribute to the homeless. On Wednesday morning, we put the word out among the staff for blanket donations and by that afternoon 15 woollen blankets were donated and pledges for another 5 had also been made! ***This is Mercy in action; this is Mary MacKillop’s famous saying in action.***

And it’s important to remember at times that as much as money raised does a lot for good causes and charities, what’s even better is the personal touch of a gift that hits the spot—and blankets for the homeless during winter is that in spades. What’s more, the groups we’re supporting with these blankets to the homeless are doing more than just handing them out—they spend time with them, yarn with them, offer a cuppa or warm soup to them and connect them with other support services they may need.

Blanket Drive for the Homeless

As mentioned above, we have responded to the call for donations of blankets for the homeless around our region this winter. Please look in your cupboards for any old blankets no longer needed; or pop into one of the shops and buy an affordable blanket to donate for the homeless. Some might even give up some treat for a few weeks so that the money can go towards a blanket to donate.

Donations of blankets can be made to the College by either getting your child to bring them to Deacon Michael Lindsay or Ms. Nicole Dewley-Crane; or you can bring them in yourself to the College Reception who will notify me and I can add them to our collection.

Each week or so, Ms Dewley-Crane will deliver them to groups who work with the homeless. The group we are working with at present is ***Wheels for Wellness*** which is an outreach of Stratford Medical Centre. The nurses and doctors of the clinic go out to the homeless themselves and while also tending to their health will give them a blanket. Another group MSB has supported and which some families may have heard about in the past is ***Rosies***, who provide friendship with a bite to eat as well. There’s lots of ways we can support works of Mercy in our community.

Let us always be inspired by our Mercy heritage to share the love of God with those most in need.

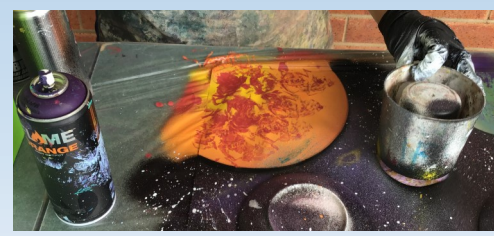
Our Lady of Mercy—pray for us.



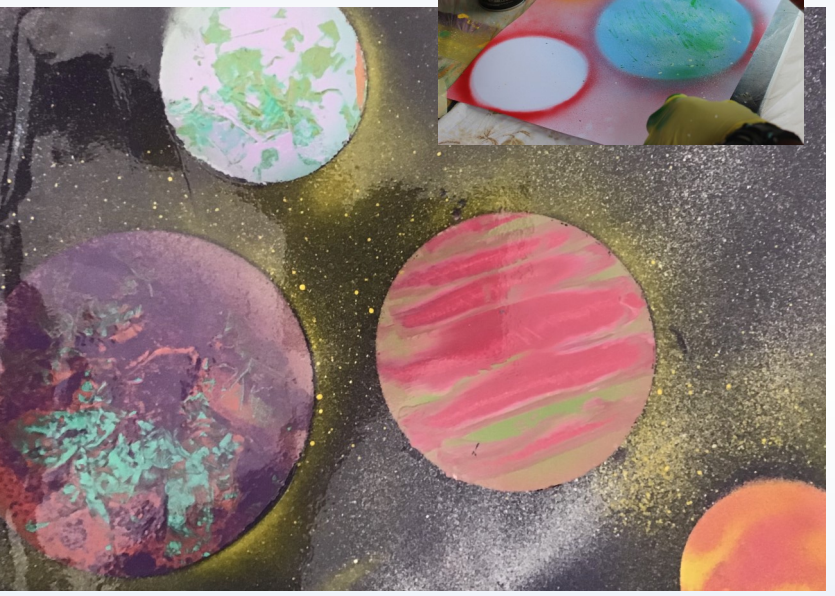
Deacon Michael Lindsay - Assistant Principal - Mission

ART NEWS - Outa Space!

In Year 8 Art, students have been looking at space, line, shape, colour, texture and form. We decided to spray paint some 'Space Scenes' to learn about the elements and principles of design. By creating planets with plates and cups as stencils, texture with newspaper applied to pooled paint, shooting stars with the cap of a spray can and stars with a flick of the hand. Made our compositions shine bright!



Traylea Sexton - Middle Leader—The Arts



BUSINESS & IT NEWS

Week 5 & 6

The Year 10 Business team participated in the ASX Share market Game 1 for 2020 which finished after 10 weeks on the 22nd of May. After all the changes and effects on the share market during the Coronavirus, both Emmy Riber and Haeden Tuhoro successfully made a profit of \$4,871.63 through their efforts and investments. They have been awarded a certificate of merit for their participation in the game. We are hopeful that more teams will like to join in for the second game later in the year.

Brendan Akers - Middle Leader - Business & IT

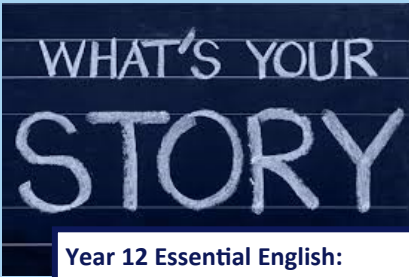


YEAR 12 ENGLISH ASSESSMENT TERMS 2 - 4



Mrs Sarah Riber

Year 12 English, EAL and Essential English students will be doing one fewer assessment task this year because of the disruption to their learning this term. This is great news for students as it means we have plenty of time to work on the remaining Internal Assessment task and prepare for the Term 4 exam.



Year 12 Essential English:

Heywire story + Common Internal Assessment exam in Term 4

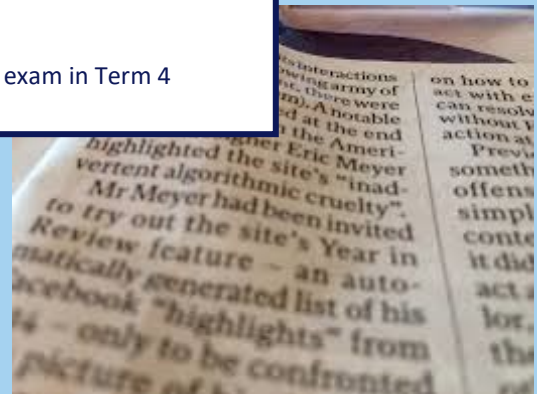
Year 12 English:

TED Talk + external exam in Term 4



Year 12 EAL:

Feature article + external exam in Term 4



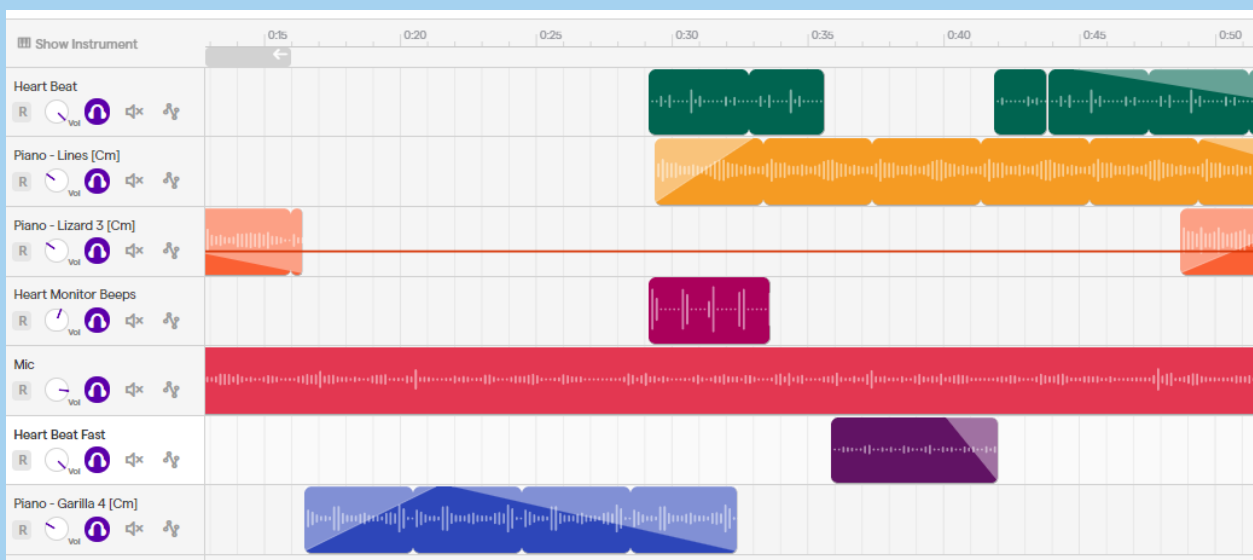
This term's task for every subject is a chance for students to express their opinions and tell their unique stories. We hope that students will take the opportunity to produce great work, whether they are here at MSB or in their communities.

Sarah Riber - Middle Leader—English & Humanities

Year 9 Drama podcast unit

Year 9 Drama have been connecting to the world by creating podcasts. The students have recorded stories of their experiences and interests and added sound effects and music using the Soundtrap program. We hope that students who are still at home will be able to share their stories too, while those in class for the rest of the term work towards performing a class play.

Sarah Riber - Drama Teacher



MATHEMATICS & SCIENCE NEWS

Maths and Science Update

It has been great to see many students are returning Maths and Science work booklets by email or with Australia Post. It has also been very heartening to receive emails and phone calls from families as we adapt to learn and teach in this new environment.

For students in years 7 to 10 we have modified all programs so that assessment can be done at school or at home. In this way we can judge the extent of the learning that has taken place.

With our senior classes we have been given permission by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority to drop one of the three school based assessments. This means ;



Mr Malcolm Fahey

Maths General	No more assessment until external exam in week 5 term 4
Maths Essential	No assessment this term, a problem solving and modelling task in term 3 and an external exam in week 5 term 4
Biology	An assignment due in week 10 of this term and an external exam in week 5 term 4

If any student is having difficulty in completing assessment tasks in these difficult times, please contact the school as early as possible as it is possible to grant extensions even with our year 12 students if we follow the right procedures.

In a sense of returning to some form of normal operations we began to undertake experiments in our laboratories again last week. Denison and Bianca are undertaking an experiment to determine which of 5 substances is the most reactive. It was great to see their inquisitive nature as they “popped” the gas produced from Magnesium reacting with hydrochloric acid to prove that they had produced hydrogen gas.

Malcolm Fahey - Middle Leader—Mathematics & Science

