

Friday 28th January 2022



Welcome back to 2022.

The staff at GBC wish all of the community a happy and safe new year and trust that this year will be quite *unlike* the last couple of years. Welcome back one and all, and a very special welcome to the new GBC families. We trust that new families will soon find themselves firmly embedded in the GBC community.

As the year starts, we implore you all to extend patience and kindness to the staff at the College as we ourselves navigate care of the community with a depleted number of staff who are unwell.

TRAFFIC

As the school year commences, it is regretful to mention that there are road works occurring again along Anakie Road. As a consequence, please follow the detour signs and look out for the **GREEN ribbon markers for SECONDARY** and **PINK ribbon markers for PRIMARY** access to the College. At the intersection at Bluestone Bridge Road and Lovely Banks Road, there are coloured arrows directing left or right. You may move through the 'road closed' signage while road works are in progress.

Please observe the speed restrictions on the College grounds. 20km/hr on all College grounds, excepting 10km/hr in the pick-up/drop-off zones. Please be aware of students when driving around on site, and heed the instructions given by staff involved in traffic management.

For the first week of term, new Foundation parents and families may park at the basketball courts and walk children to their classroom. Parents should say their goodbyes and depart immediately after dropping their Foundation student off at the classroom.

From 2pm in the afternoon, cars can either park near the basketball courts, or begin lining up in the 'snake'. Primary students will be brought straight to the cars, including the basketball court car park. Parents are not to exit their cars and must wait for their child to be walked to them, in order to avoid traffic congestion.

New primary bus travellers will be walked to the bus, for afternoon bus run, for the first week.

All other new parents and families are able to park next to the basketball courts and walk their child to the College office, where there will be teachers, student leaders and other staff members to then take children to their classroom. After the first day of school, all primary students will be dropped off at the top car park or 'snake' and all secondary students will use the bottom drop-off area.

PARKING

Please note that the auditorium to administration is a NO PARKING ZONE between the hours of 8:00am to 9:30am and again from 2:00pm to 3:45pm, due to it being a designated drop-off and pick-up zone.

Please remember to bear with new families as they learn the ropes for our traffic conditions. If families have any questions regarding the drop-off and pick up process, please contact the office.

COVID-19 UPDATES

- Students and staff who report a positive result must isolate for seven days and not attend school during that period.
- We will endeavour to support students who are required to isolate or quarantine in the same way as students with an extended absence due to illness or injury, with learning materials provided to support their continued learning. Schools are not expected to provide a full remote learning program in these circumstances.

- Where a student is a household contact of a positive case (that is, they have spent more than four hours with someone who has COVID-19 inside a house, accommodation, or care facility) they must inform the school and isolate for seven days and not attend school during that period.
- RAT Testing – As a means to reducing the risks, the Victorian government has made available nasal RAT test kits to enable students to test twice a week before attending school for the first four weeks of Term 1. Staff and students are encouraged to do this on Tuesday and Thursday for Week 1 and then on Mondays and Wednesdays thereafter. This is not a solution and *will only be effective if as many students as possible undertake these tests*. Further communication will be sent home with the RAT test kits on Monday 31st January.
- Schools are advised to limit the number of visitors on College grounds. Visitors must have had two COVID-19 vaccinations and be able to provide office staff with their COVID certificate (green tick).
- GBC is required to **maintain records of visitors** to the school and **observe social distancing**, with **regular hand-hygiene**. All visitors must sign in and out on the GBC attendance register in the office, as per normal Child Safety Standards.
- **Face masks** for all students from Year 3 to Year 12 are required when indoors and while on College buses, unless a valid exemption has been provided to the College office.
- As a community, everyone is asked to remain vigilant and respectful of one another. Please keep children at home if they are unwell, encourage them to perform regular hand hygiene and maintain physical distancing wherever practical.

COLLEGE STUDENT DIARIES

Students from Foundation to Year 12 are issued with a College Diary. These are a vital tool for parent and teacher communication. In primary, diaries are to be signed daily, by both the teacher and parent. In lower secondary, diaries are signed weekly by both parties. The cost of the first diary is covered in school fees, however if a replacement is required, the cost is \$10.

GBC COMMUNITY BBQ

Previous correspondence to new families stated that the GBC Community BBQ would be going ahead, however, in the light of current COVID-19 restrictions, this annual event has been cancelled.

UNIFORM REMINDER

Full summer uniform is required for all students throughout Term 1. If you need to clarify what this entails, please contact the College office to obtain the Student Conduct, Discipline and Uniform Policy.

CANTEEN

The canteen is open on Wednesdays and Fridays throughout the year. Any updates will be communicated through the fortnightly newsletter. The menu can be found on the College website.

TERM DATES – 2022 - REMINDER

(Year 7s commence Fri 29 Jan)

Term 1 Mon 31 Jan – Tues 8 April

Term 2 Tue 26 April – Fri 24 June

Term 3 Tue 12 April – Fri 16 Sept

Term 4 Tue 4 Oct – Tues 6th Dec

(While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of future dates, these are still subject to change)

Sincerely,



Mrs Judy Sobey
Primary Principal



Mr Neil Wetmore
Secondary Principal