



## **PRESS RELEASE 12.10.21**

### **ST JOHN'S COLLEGE PRESS RELEASE RE COVID19 CASE**

A St John's College Year 12 student has tested positive for COVID19 and unfortunately the school is a Tier 1 exposure site.

St John's College is currently following all advice from the Victoria Government State Government, the Department of Health and Human Services as well as Independent Schools Victoria in responding to the COVID19 positive case within the school.

At St John's College, our priority is the health and wellbeing of our students and staff. We are acutely aware of the impact this exposure poses to our students and staff, particularly our Year 12 students as they approach the examination period.

The College has been acting with caution and in line with the School Operating Guide provided by the Victorian Department of Education and Training. The Director of Operations Mr Derek Sherwood has initiated all required safety and hygiene measures.

A student attended the College on the day of the GAT Tuesday 5th of October. He was feeling well and had no reason to believe he was infectious with the virus. On Thursday 7th and Friday 8th of October a second member of the community who was unknowingly infectious with the virus had direct contact with several members of staff.

The College is taking the right steps forward to manage the situation and are currently working with VCAA to complete the applications for educational disadvantage for all affected students. Our practice exam period has been transitioned to an online program; exams commenced yesterday Monday 11th of October. The onsite program for the children of essential workers and vulnerable children has been paused so everyone on site at the time of the possible exposure may get tested and isolate.

The College has enacted the COVID Response Plan which outlines the College's procedures and policies which are in line with current Government regulations. We are communicating directly with the students and families as the situation changes. Those directly affected have been contacted. Information is available on SEQTA and the College website about online learning arrangements.



St John's College remains steadfast in its commitment to the personal and academic growth of our students. As such, our curriculum is focused on supporting students to maximise online learning and our Pastoral Care and Student Wellbeing Programs. These programs will continue to support all our student's emotional health and wellbeing during this time. Our student wellbeing team are providing ongoing spiritual, psychological and learning support for our students.

College Principal Mrs Anna Urban thanks the community who have responded with diligence, compassion and understanding at the challenging time. There are several other families impacted by the spread of the virus in spreads unrelated to the school. Father John Frangos and Bishop-Elect Evmenios pray for the full recovery of everyone in our community and the broader community who are unwell at this time.

The community are currently creating a co-collaborative song 'R U OK' to be launch on October 27th – International Day of the Child. We reach out to all the children and young people across the world whose lives have been so severely impacted by the pandemic.

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