



UPDATE

from Principal Jim Ford



Issue 7 | 11 June 2021

Welcome to the seventh edition of the Catherine McAuley College Update.

Homework

In education circles there is much debate about the efficacy of Homework in assisting students to learn. Homework should not be excessive, so it substantially disrupts home life or requires extensive parent support. Parents can certainly help in communicating the expectation that it is done, and a routine established. If there is no homework, then reading during that usual time is just as important. Expectations with Years 7 and 8 homework should require approximately 1-hour a night for each of the weekday evenings. Homework should not be new learning but is a consolidation of skills and concepts recently learned in class. (i.e., Practice Maths problems, vocab definitions in Science and English, timeline in History and so on).

Learning is best promoted by frequent and timely revisiting of concepts. It is an active process. Homework can help here.

Teaching and Learning

With people, no one approach works all the time. With adolescent students (and adults) the professional educator functions in the space of 'what works.' Capturing student interest and providing effective instruction to bridge gaps and build skills is a significant part of the job. Just as important, is getting students to understand how they learn, along with the development of personal qualities such as persistence and self-belief that underlies life-long learning.

So, how will teachers teach at Catherine McAuley College?

Visible Learning

Students understanding how they best learn with regular feedback to guide progress. Structured lessons with clear 'Learning Goals', lesson transitions and measures of learning success.

Technology Enhanced Learning

Integrated use of technology in all subject areas. Automated robotic applications to data gathering and controlled systems to advanced research capabilities and online tutoring. Emphasis in some subjects; available in all.

Explicit Instruction

Teacher expert input. Student practice of new skills and concept application. Capturing interest and imagination.

Inquiry-based Learning

Application of learning to investigate questions or solving of a challenging problem. STEM approach that develops General Capabilities. Keeping students curious.

Using the above approaches (Pedagogy) staff will work in collaborative teams to ensure all students experience high-quality learning practices in the classroom. "Always walk-through life as if you have something new to learn, and you will." – Vernon Howard

Kind regards

Jim Ford
Jim Ford
Principal

Technology

Dell Chromebook will be used by the students. This Chromebook can be used as in laptop mode, tablet mode and flipped into tent mode.



Further information about Catherine McAuley College can be found at

The Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton website www.rok.catholic.edu.au

or by emailing

cmc@rok.catholic.edu.au

Building works continue to move along with the schedule still on time.



CONTACT

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Q&A

Thank you to those parents who submitted questions as part of the Parent Information Night. Over the coming weeks, Mr Ford will provide answers to all questions. If further information is required, please do not hesitate to make contact on 1800 228 433.

Q: Do boys have to wear the tie as a compulsory part of the uniform?

A: Yes – formal uniform is to be worn to school every day except Wednesday. Sports uniform is worn on Wednesday.

Q: Is there a bucket hat option or cap?

A: A sports cap will be part of the uniform which can be worn at lunchtime or active play.

Q: Whose idea was the white sports shirt? Not keen as a parent with soaking/washing time.

A: White for coolness. The material is low maintenance. No need for the expense of a separate House shirt.

Q: Is there a netball uniform?

A: There will be.

Q: Will the college have feeder schools?

A: We do not use the term 'feeder schools' as all Catholic Colleges are open to accept enrolments from those families who will support our values.

Q: What are the computing device requirements for students?

A: students will be issued with a new Chromebook computer and a Scientific Calculator which parents pay off in the first year (at a reduced amount due to bulk purchase by the Catholic Education Office).

Q: PLEASE PLEASE tell us the House Names?

A: To be advised.

Q: Will there be Bus Services to the College?

A: Mackay Transit Coaches (MTC) is factoring in transport to and from the College. Bus stop at the College is on Thorning Street.

Q: Will there be a Tuckshop operating from 2022, how many days and PLEASE offer decent gluten free options?

A: Yes – Tuckshop will operate all days. Menu to be determined.

A quote from Catherine McAuley

God does not look at the action but the Spirit motivating it, and he will judge and reward us accordingly.