



Wednesday, 24 June 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Thank-you for your on-going collaboration with us as we endeavour to provide the best possible education for your son(s) at Blackfriars throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. This time in history has been challenging for everyone and I commend all staff, boys, parents and caregivers for your goodwill, generosity of spirit and genuine compassion for all members of our School community. Together we will continue to address the on-going challenges presented by COVID-19 and support all students to grow in character, resilience and capacity to achieve their best possible personal and educational outcomes in all circumstances.

I write to you as we near the end of Term 2 about four matters:

1. A reminder about the arrangements for the end of Term 2 previously sent to you on Wednesday, 27 May 2020
2. Information about the easing of COVID-19 restrictions in South Australia and the impact on school activities for Term 3
3. Staffing Changes
4. Good News regarding the progress of the Aquinas Centre.

1. **Reminder Notice - Change to Term 2 / Week 10**

Monday 29 June to Thursday 2 July	ELC to Year 12 students attend school
Friday 3 July	Holidays commence for all students Vacation Care commences
Monday 20 July	Term 3 commences for all students

2. **Easing of COVID-19 Restrictions in South Australian Schools**

From Monday, 29 June the following listed activities will resume at Blackfriars. We will continue to follow all government health advice as these activities are implemented:

- parents, volunteers, school support and other service providers may again enter the school and preschool grounds
 - *All external service providers and volunteers must complete the site access forms on entry*
- school assemblies
- class photos
- intrastate camps and excursions
- all school sport competitions, sports days and carnivals, including inter-school competitions
- inter-school choirs, bands and other performing art activities
- school formals, socials and discos
- playgroups and occasional care
- larger face-to-face professional learning activities.

Continuing Restrictions

Please continue to comply with government advice and regulations regarding restrictions. The South Australian roadmap to recovery is changing constantly, so please refer to the [SA Health](#) website for the most up to date information.

I remind you of the following basic protocols that will keep our Blackfriars community safe:

- Students who are unwell must stay home
- Only Blackfriars students are permitted to use our playgrounds
- All adults are asked to continue to follow the 'roadmap' restrictions and guidelines outlined by [SA Health](#):
 - Population density and social distancing restrictions to be maintained, as directed (ie: as of 29 June 2020, area capacity = 1 person per 2 sqm).

Please continue to regularly review the [School COVID-19 Info Hub](#) for our Community updates.

Blackfriars School Calendar Term 3 2020

Our traditional calendar of school events and activities will re-commence at the beginning of Term 3. This will include the following major events:

1. All Primary and Secondary School Co-curricular competitive sports and activities	
2. St Dominic's Day Mass and Community Activities	(Week 3, Term 3)
3. Year 12 Retreat	(Week 5, Term 3)
4. INTERCOL with CBC	(Week 9, Term 3)
5. Year 12 Formal	(Week 10, Term 3)
6. Parent-Teacher Night	(Week 10, Term 3)
7. Year 8 Camp	(Week 6, Term 4)
8. Year 7 Camp	(Week 7, Term 4)

Blackfriars will continue to be flexible with the scheduling of events throughout Term 3 and Term 4. Some events, for example the Annual Music Concert, Catholic Schools Music Festival and ABODA Music Festival will be modified in structure because of the impact of COVID-19 on the capacity of teachers at Blackfriars or in other schools to prepare students to perform to the usual high quality of performance or because of adult social distancing requirements set by external venues in compliance with Government Health Regulations.

Please refer to the Term 3 School Calendar for a detailed summary of dates and times of school events, accessed via the 'School Calendar' tile on the homepage of SEQTA/Parent-Caregiver Portal or the [School Calendar on our website](#). Cancelled or postponed events are listed on the [School COVID-19 Info Hub](#).

3. Staffing Changes

Canteen Manager

Frances Markota has retired from her role as Canteen Manager, effective Friday, 10 July 2020.

Frances has given dedicated service to Blackfriars over 29 years and on behalf of students, staff and parents I wish to thank Frances for her generosity, inclusiveness and compassion.

The canteen is central to the life of Blackfriars and we all know how much boys eat and how much they love their food. The boys at Blackfriars have been very fortunate to have Frances managing the canteen with her friendly, accepting nature and her sense of humour and virtues, essential for working well with boys. The boys have known that they have a second home in the canteen and a welcome, positive relationship with Frances and the canteen staff.

We congratulate Frances on a wonderful career at Blackfriars. We hope she has many years to enjoy her retirement and to spend time with her family and friends.

Interim Appointment

Veronica Harkins, currently Acting Canteen Manager will continue the fine tradition of service to our School community established by Frances during her tenure.

Clinical Psychologist

Dr Lucinda Clifford, Clinical Psychologist has resigned from Blackfriars effective Friday, 19 June after 7 years of dedicated, professional service and leadership to our community. Her knowledge, understanding and compassionate management of a broad spectrum of wellbeing matters has been invaluable to our students, families and staff. We wish Lucinda a smooth transition as she re-joins her colleagues in private practice.

Interim Support

Dianne Bucciarelli (School Counsellor) has been temporarily appointed to full-time until the position of Clinical Psychologist is filled. I am very grateful that Dianne has agreed to the extra hours and with her assistance we are able to maintain the high standard of wellbeing support to the students and families of our community.

4. Aquinas Centre

I am excited to share the following good news with our school community. The Aquinas Centre is six weeks ahead of schedule and all being well, students and staff will move into our new facilities towards the end of Term 3, 2020. I am especially excited for our Year 12 students who having experienced a somewhat disjointed year will now lay claim to being the first senior class in the Aquinas Centre.

In conclusion, I wish all students and their families and staff a safe holiday and a restful break during the chill of the winter season.

Yours sincerely,



SIMON COBIAC
PRINCIPAL