



Inspiring Independence, Transforming Lives



Principal's Message ...

Dear Parents, Friends and Students of St Edmund's,

The usual energy and enthusiasm which usually fills our corridors and yard was eerily absent at St Edmund's as we commenced Term 2 and, when I walked the campus this week, I felt a tremendous feeling of quiet and absence that we associate with loss and grief. It is our community, being together that gives our school life.

This loss and a disconnection from the routines, busy life and people, coupled with feelings of fear for the elderly, for people's economic loss and for countries where their health systems are not at the same level of ours have become the loud noises we hear. We pray for normality and for life to return to how things were before the pandemic hit. I suspect that this will take some time but our gradual and managed return to our normal school routines in Week 3 will help us to move in that direction. We will continue to try and build community through our online platforms and this will also include some of our major events such as Edmund Rice Day. A liturgy along with learning materials has been developed for this event to continue to engage our students in this important aspect of school life.

Edmund Rice Day

On Tuesday 5th May we celebrate the Feast of Blessed Edmund Rice. This is a day of great importance for us, as our identity, mission and vision are based upon this person of faith. It is a celebration of the life of the founder of our schools, the Irishman, Edmund Rice, who became a holy man through the great work of providing schooling to uneducated boys and young men, particularly the poor and disadvantaged. Through the order he founded, the Christian Brothers, schools were started all over the world, including many in Australia.

A particular thank you to Mr Terry O'Keefe for providing online learning materials for the day and an opportunity for our College community to continue to engage in the story of our founder, Blessed Edmund Rice.

Best wishes for the week ahead.

Jon Franzin
PRINCIPAL



Please see the details in this Newsletter
for the Term 2 Men's Group get together
and online ZOOM chat:

TUESDAY 5TH MAY 7.30 P.M. - 8.30 P.M.



Deputy Principal's Message ...

Welcome back to Term 2. Again this term, we will see ongoing changes and developments as we transition back to face to face teaching. We hope students, while at home, have been able to engage in some of the learning activities online which has provided us with an opportunity to continue to integrate further technology into our learning.

Pupil Free Days:

Each term we have staff professional learning days and this term we have two days set aside. The first will be **Friday 5th June** and again on **Friday 19th June**. Please note these dates in your diaries.

Winter Uniform:

As we begin Term 2, the College winter uniform is to be worn. However, in Weeks 3 to 4, as we transition students back to school, we ask that students come to school in their winter sports uniform. This will be for the one day per week transition period in Weeks 3 and 4 to enable students to engage in physical education activities. For any uniform enquiries or purchases please contact Wendy Scott in the College office or on email scott@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au

College iPads:

As we begin to transition back to school, a reminder that College iPads will need to be returned to the College in Week 5 with their chargers. This will allow students to continue to integrate technology into their learning as we return to face to face teaching. If you have any questions around the iPads and their return, please contact me on scanlon@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au

Personalised Plan Meetings:

The Personalised Plan development process is concluding next week. We hope to finalise all PP documentation by mid-term and a copy will then be sent home to parents and/or carers.

Protocols and Etiquette for Online Learning:

For Weeks 1 and 2 and some of Weeks 3 and 4, students will continue with online learning. Parents are reminded to check their child's iPad while they are engaged in online learning. This term, the learning material is being posted on the Microsoft Teams platform which enables teachers and students to engage in learning materials and wellbeing connections each day at 9.30 a.m. We ask that any questions or queries you may have regarding online learning or wellbeing be directed firstly to your Homeroom teacher via email or phone.

In this new world of school, work and home, our partnership is central in ensuring that our young people remain happy, connected and engaged.

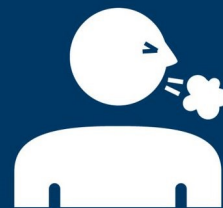
Reminder about Student illness:

As we move now into winter, a reminder that if your child is not feeling well, has a fever, vomiting or diarrhea, bad pain or coughing that will not stop, they need to remain at home to rest and see your doctor.

Here at the College, we are encouraging constant use of hygienic practices, especially hand sanitizing for staff and students; please also encourage this at home to promote health and reduce illnesses within our community.

Jason Scanlon
Deputy Principal

Stay home
when sick





Mission and Identity

The start of Term 2 is usually a special time of focus in relation to our mission and our College identity.

Our College values of Faith, Community, Relationships and Joy all come to the fore during this time.

This year it is very different. Our Easter and ANZAC celebrations looked and felt very different this year. Our holiday period, while having fantastic weather, just felt a little bit strange. We cannot gather in communities and our relationships are dependent on which technology we can access at any given time. The joy we usually experience during all these events and times feels a little different this year.

Next Tuesday, 5th May, we will celebrate the feast of Blessed Edmund Rice, the founder of the Christian Brothers and the inspiration of all the Edmund Rice Education Australia schools. Whilst we cannot gather and celebrate this special day as a whole community, we are going to dedicate the day to Blessed Edmund for all the members of our College community, working at school or working off campus in their homes. On this day, we will reflect upon the story of Blessed Edmund and our College connection to him, displayed significantly through our House Teams that bear the names of important places from the life of Edmund. A variety of activities will be sent home through Microsoft Teams next Monday and all students, whether at school or home, will be following roughly the same timetable for the day. We hope you all enjoy this special day.



Normally on Friday, 8th May, we would be hosting a special liturgy at the College to honour all of the special women who provide mothering to all in our community. This year we will be sending home a short prayer liturgy through Teams for the students to share with their families and especially any women in their lives who care and comfort them. We hope you will all enjoy this shared celebration as well.

For all our students, this is a great time to show our Mums and the women who care for us, how much we love them. Do something extra special this week for those women and make them smile.

We are all waiting expectantly to see the joy on the faces of our students and other members of our community as they begin to return to school over the coming weeks.

God bless you all, St Edmund's.

Terry O'Keefe
Head of Mission and Identity





Administration

2020 Term 2 The College Timetable 2

I discussed last term the topic of the College timetable. For some people, this is as exciting a topic as lawn mowing or stacking the dishwasher! The benefits are, however, that teachers and students have a timetable that is complete, as far as the curriculum is considered and is balanced across the day and week.

At St Edmund's, we use a software program to support the development, which speeds up the process as well as ensuring that we do not duplicate classes, double up in rooms or teachers.

Then along came social distancing and home schooling . . .

Parents, you have done a marvellous job in home schooling your children and all the teachers thank you for the wonderful schooling you have undertaken. Some students have followed their regular school timetable and have changed subjects as regularly as clockwork, according to the scheduled time but for many, I guess it's fitting in with your schedule or you fitting in with your child's preferences.

At St Edmund's we have continued to operate the College, albeit with a significantly reduced number of students and staff on site. As a consequence, we had to reorganise our College timetable. First collapsing classes, then later rewriting the entire timetable from year groups (e.g. Years 7 or 8 and more recently to stage groups (e.g. Years 9 and 10).

During the last weeks of term 1, for some days each week, teachers were working remotely and creating online learning materials. On other days, they were at College teaching a modified curriculum, similar to the online learning offered to students learning remotely.

This term the model for weeks 1 and 2 is similar. We have created three classes, offering the online curriculum for those students of essential workers. We have planned a roster for staff to work onsite to match the curriculum each day. This ensures that Key Learning Areas of the curriculum are being led by specialist staff, albeit using online teaching materials. A changing number of students attend each day, which means organising the timetable needs replanning each afternoon, then reorganising each morning according to the numbers and needs of students.

It has been so pleasing to witness how successfully students have transitioned from class to class when at College as well as coping with the changing mode of learning.

Later this term, we will start transitioning to our established model of on campus learning. We have the term 2 timetable ready to go as soon as College opens to all students. We hope this will be sooner rather than later. I am sure you will agree.

Carl Southern
Head of Administration





Community News

From the Parent Group

Welcome back to Term 2! Hoping the very different holidays were still enjoyed. We couldn't see each other over the holidays for our normal catch ups and social activities which I know our teenagers found disappointing. Tom was disappointed that his regular activities had been cancelled and even some long anticipated catch up dates. We tried cooking at home, some walks and a few backyard fires where he discovered that he liked cooking marshmallows on the campfire. After a few fires he tried eating them and discovered that he liked the burnt outside but not the gooey inside the best part!

Maybe you could send some of your holiday snaps in for us to see, to inspire us with new ideas so there are some photos for our kids to see of their friends which can be conversation starters for them. Send them to newsletter@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au so that we can put them in next week's Newsletter.

Keep safe and happy and we look forward to some normality creeping back in. In the meantime, keep talking to each other, it's sometimes hard but often rewarding.

The days are so long and patience is wearing thin
Sometimes it is hard to even manage a grin
We start to ask ourselves how we got this so wrong

Or maybe it's a chance to stop and look around
to be thankful and kind to those that we have
to appreciate the things that was once the norm
And to ask ourselves what we can learn

To think of those who need us to be strong
To all come together for those who cannot fight
to make one small sacrifice so that we can make it right

Anon.

Janine Eastham – Tom's mum
Parent Group Leader





As we missed our Meeting last term and we are not sure how things will play out this term, let's catch up for a chat and check in with each other online.

- What? St Lucy's School and St Edmund's College Men's Group - chance to catch up online
- When? Tuesday 5th May at 7.30 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.
- Where? You can join us online from home
- How? Zoom meeting - please see instructions below if needed
- RSVP? Mr Brendan Wingrave brendan.wingrave@gmail.com. Let us know by Monday at noon if you hope to make it - being online we will need to arrange things differently depending on how many of us join in.

Zoom Link: <https://deloitte.zoom.us/j/99009091523?pwd=NldNY0JhZ2tYdEF0YnJOMjg5UStqQT09>

Zoom: If you have not used Zoom, it is very easy to get going. Zoom is essentially a web conference platform where we can see each other and talk via the internet: <https://zoom.us/>

What you will need:

- PC, Mac, Smart Phone or tablet (or Phoneline) connected to the internet.
- If you are using a PC/Mac you will need a webcam if possible so we can see you, and speakers/headphones and a microphone.
- From a PC or Mac you can run it from your web browser, or install the app when prompted if you like (either should be fine).

For Phones/tablets you can install the Zoom app from the appstore/Googleplay. Then, at the time of the meeting, click on the meeting link we will send - best to start connecting 5 minutes before it is due to start. If you don't have a computer/smart phone/tablet, you can still use a normal phone, we will give you a number you can call, with some codes that need to be entered.

Full Zoom Details with phone dial in number, and meeting ID and password if needed:

JOIN MEETING

Password: 704695

Phone one-tap: Australia +61370182005..99009091523# or +61871501149..99009091523#

JOIN BY TELEPHONE

Dial: Australia: +61 3 7018 2005 or +61 8 7150 1149 or +61 2 8015 6011

Meeting ID: 990 0909 1523

Password: 704695

Around the College - Important Dates and Changes

Term 2

Tue 5th May	Edmund Rice Day celebrations - online
Fri 8th May	Mother's Day Liturgy - online
Tue 13th May	Year 10 Immunisation to be confirmed
Fri 15th May	Term 2 College Disco cancelled
Tue 26th May	Term 2 Parent Group Meeting cancelled
Tue 2nd Jun	Term 2 Mufti Day to be confirmed
Fri 5th Jun	Staff Day (pupil free day)
Mon 8th Jun	Queen's Birthday public holiday
Tue 9th June	Students' school photos
Tue 9th Jun	Term 2 Men's Group Meeting (St Lucy's) cancelled
Sat 13th Jun	Eddie's Big Night Out (Miramare Gardens, Terrey Hills) cancelled
Wed 10th - Fri 12th Jun	Years 7 & 8 Camp to be rescheduled if possible
Fri 19th Jun	Staff Day (pupil free day)
Fri 26th Jun	RFS Cadet & Leadership Award Assembly cancelled
Fri 26th Jun	Last day of Term 2

Term 3

Mon 20th Jul	Students & Staff return to Term 3
Fri 7th Aug	Term 3 College Disco
	Senior Information Evening
Tue 11th Aug	Term 3 Mufti Day
Wed 19th Aug	St Edmund's Golf Day
Wed 26th Aug	Term 3 Men's Group Meeting (St Edmund's)
Fri 4th Sep	Father's Day Breakfast
Tue 8th Sep	Term 3 Parent Group Meeting
Tue 1st Sep	St Edmund's Athletics Carnival
Sun 13th Sep	Family Fun Day (St Edmund's field)
Wed 23rd - Fri 25th Sep	Senior Retreat
Fri 25th Sep	Last day of Term 3

Term 4

Mon 12th Oct	Students return to Term 4
Mon 14th Oct	Year 7 Immunisation
Tue 20th Oct	St Edmund's Swimming Carnival
Fri 23rd Oct	Term 4 College Disco
	Wed 28th Oct - Fri 30th Nov Years 9 & 10 Camp
Tue 3rd Nov	Term 4 Mufti Day
Tue 3rd Nov	Term 4 Parent Group Meeting
Tue 10th Nov	Orientation Day
Tue 17th Nov	Term 4 Men's Group Meeting (St Lucy's)
Fri 20th Nov	Abbotsleigh Concert
Fri 27th Nov	Year 12 Graduation Formal
Tue 1st Dec	Presentation Ceremony
Wed 9th Dec	Year 12 Farewell Mass & BBQ lunch and Last day of Term 4

A Mother's Day Prayer

Dear Lord,

*Please watch over
and support all mothers
on earth and in heaven . . .*

*and help them to know how much
they are loved and appreciated
on Mother's Day and every day.*

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