



St Joseph's
College
TOOWOOMBA

COVID Update #1 – Term 1 2022

Dear St Joseph's College Community,

I hope you have had a safe and happy break with your family and friends.

As you would be aware, COVID-19 and the new Omicron variant continues to impact our daily lives. The Premier announced recently that the formal start of the Queensland academic school year will be delayed by two weeks.

Changes to the start of the school year

- The formal, on campus, start to the academic school year for Year 7 to Year 12 will be delayed by two weeks, from 24 January (Monday 24 January is a student-free day) to 7 February.
- Students in Years 11 and 12 will undertake online learning at home for the week beginning 31 January.
- Years 7 to 10 will commence on campus from Monday 7 February.

Will St Joseph's College be open?

Yes. Students experiencing vulnerability and those whose parents are essential workers and absolutely must attend their workplace, will be able to attend the College and will be provided supervision from 24 January to 4 February.

- Vulnerable students and students of essential workers will not be attending formal lessons with their class teachers during this time.
- An essential worker is someone who provides essential services and who is unable to work from home. This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses and other front-line medical staff, retail workers, haulage drivers, police officers, early childhood and education staff.
- If you need to send your child to school you must ensure your child is well and not displaying any signs of illness.
- Any student attending school will be required to present in full College uniform and to adhere to mandated Health protocols and hygiene practices, including hand sanitation and mask wearing.

In order for us to plan for the supervision of vulnerable students and students of essential workers, from 25 January to 4 February, we ask that you complete the form below. Your prompt reply by 4:00pm, Monday 17 January is imperative to enable the College to make necessary staffing and supervisory arrangements.

Year 11 and 12 students

Years 11 and 12 students will undertake online learning from home commencing on Monday 31 January. Our IT infrastructure and staff are well prepared for online learning via our Canvas platform. More information will be provided to students and families in the days ahead.

Year 7, 10 and new students

Students in Year 10 and new students to the College are to receive their Microsoft Surface laptop at the start of 2022. To continue to rollout these devices and accelerate the return to normal school processes, we are dedicating a day for Year 10 and new students, with an accompanying parent, to collect their device from the College. This will involve:

- Attending the MacKillop Centre anytime from 8am-3pm on 21 January for approximately 15min. Please book a time slot [using this link](#).
- Collecting the new laptop, logging into the device while on campus and completing some basic setup instructions.
- Please remember that COVID Safe practices apply, and you and your student/s will be required to always wear a mask and sign-in via the Qld Govt Check-In App. If you are unwell, isolating or in quarantine and therefore unable to attend this time, please contact the Office and we will make alternative arrangements for you and your child.

Year 7 students usually receive their Microsoft Surface laptop in the first few days of the school year. With the current changes we are making 2 days available for Year 7 students and/or a family representative to come to the College to collect their device. This process will involve:

- Attending the MacKillop Centre anytime from 8am-3pm on either 24 January or 25 January for approximately 15min. Please book a time slot [using this link](#).
- Collecting the new laptop, logging into the device while on campus, resetting the password and completing a couple of setup operations



- Please remember that COVID Safe practices apply, and you and your student/s will be required to always wear a mask and sign-in via the Qld Govt Check-In App. If you are unwell, isolating or in quarantine and therefore unable to attend this time, please contact the Office and we will make alternative arrangements for you and your child.
- In order to provide opportunities for Year 7 students to become familiar with their device we will provide links to video tutorials which can be engaged with at home.
- Please sign and return the Student Device Program and Agreement that has been distributed via email, prior to laptop collection.

What can all St Joseph's College students do in order to prepare to return to learning?

- Please ask your child to ensure they can log in and access their SJC email and Canvas (please note that at this point in time, Canvas Courses will not be visible/published until learning commences)
- Any difficulties please contact ictsupport@sjc.qld.edu.au

College Events

Below is a breakdown of the upcoming College events and their current status. Please note that as further information becomes available, we may update and adjust these events.

Week	Date	Activity/Event	Status
1	19 Jan	Yr 11 & 12 Textbook Collection – 10am-1pm – Library	Continue as planned. COVID Safe Practices
	21 Jan	Yr 10 & New Students Laptop Collection – MacKillop Centre	Approx. 15min collection of laptop on SJC campus. COVID Safe Practices.
	25 Jan	Yr 7 Information Evening	Cancelled. Video recording will be made available
	24 or 25 Jan	Yr 7 Laptop Collection – MacKillop Centre	Approx. 30min collection of laptop on SJC campus. COVID Safe Practices.
	27 Jan	Yr 8 & 9 Information Evening	Cancelled. Video recording will be made available
	27 Jan	Yr 10, 11, 12 Information Evening	Cancelled. Video recording will be made available
	28 Jan	Yr 12 Ball Practice	Cancelled
2	31 Jan	Yr 11 & 12 Commence Online Learning	Online Learning via Canvas. Further information will be provided
	1 Feb	Opening Liturgy, Induction and Semester 2 Academic Awards	Postponed
	2 Feb	SJC Swimming Carnival	Postponed
	4 Feb	Yr 11 Study Skills session	Postponed
	4 Feb	Yr 12 Ball Dance Practice	Cancelled
3	7 Feb	Year 7-12 students return to school, on campus	
	8 Feb	College Photo Day	At this stage continue as planned. COVID Safe Practices
	8 Feb	Academic Excellence Morning Tea	At this stage continue as planned. COVID Safe Practices
	9 Feb – 11 Feb	Yr 7 Camp	Postponed to 1-3 June
	9 Feb	USQ University Showcase	TBA
	9 Feb	Yr 12 Ball Dance Practice – 1:45-3:45pm	At this stage continue as planned. COVID Safe Practices
	10 Feb	Yr 9 Unleashing Personal Potential Presentation	At this stage continue as planned. COVID Safe Practices
Other	13 Feb	Yr 12 Ball Dance Practice – 10-12 @ Rumours	At this stage continue as planned. COVID Safe Practices
	17 Feb	Yr 7 & New Families Welcome Liturgy and BBQ	At this stage continue as planned. COVID Safe Practices
	19 Feb	Yr 12 Inauguration Ball	At this stage continue as planned. COVID Safe Practices
	25 Feb	Music Camp	At this stage continue as planned. COVID Safe Practices

What will be the change to Term 1 fees?

Given the delayed start to the school year, we will be delaying the issuing of fees until the week beginning Monday, 14 February. Questions may be asked as to why fees are required to be paid for the two weeks when not all students are attending school. Whilst there is some logic to the question, the operational costs of running the school, including staff salaries, remain the same. Staff are using the time wisely to further prepare for the return of students and for the longer-term possibility of moving to remote learning. Financial hardship enquiries are part of our normal process and can be submitted to finance@sjc.qld.edu.au.

Extra week at the end of the school year

With regard to the State Government's announcement that the school year will be extended by one week to compensate for the delayed start to the school year, I wish to confirm that the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office has indicated that this will not be our approach. Finishing dates for Year 10, 11 and 12 are as per the College Calendar. Our school year for Year 7, 8 and 9 will conclude on Friday, 2 December 2022 as previously planned.

Electronic Calendars

A copy of the St Joseph's College calendar in electronic form can be found here – <https://www.sjc.qld.edu.au/2022-college-calendar/>

A copy of the Sports calendar in electronic form can be found here – <https://www.sjc.qld.edu.au/2022-sports-calendar/>

Communication

Please look out for further communication and accept that this communication is an important part of keeping our College community healthy and safe. We will update information provided as required. If you have any concerns, please contact the College.

Let us continue to hold all who may be unwell at this time and all involved in responding to the COVID-19 situation in our thoughts and prayers. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Kind regards

Kort Goodman
College Principal

