



### NEWSLETTER TERM 2, ISSUE 3 2020

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

**29<sup>th</sup> May 2020** – School  
Development Day at Merredin  
College

**01<sup>st</sup> June 2020** – WA Day  
Public Holiday

**03 July 2020** – Last Day of  
Term 2, MRC closes at 5:00pm

**20<sup>th</sup> July 2020** – School  
Development Day at Merredin  
College  
MRC Opens at 2:00pm

**21<sup>st</sup> July 2020** - Term 3 Starts

#### Contact Details

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**Manager:**  
Elizabeth Moody  
**Admin/Finance Officer :**  
Robyn Kellie  
**Senior Supervisor:**  
Caine Denyer  
**Supervisors:**  
Lauren Franklin  
Sam Jandi  
Zach Ghiradi

#### Manager's Message

Welcome back Parents, Carers and Students,

What a tumultuous time we are having, and unfortunately this will stay this way for a while longer this is the new normal.

"We are in this together" please call if you have any concerns, I'm always available. I must congratulate students and staff for their co-operation in dealing with all the changes.

Here are few of the positives for the students in which they are enjoying, i.e.

NO DISHES,  
ORDER LUNCH HAVE IT MADE,  
WASHING IS DONE DAILY  
RELAXED ELECTRONIC TIMES.  
DAILY WALKS/RUNS  
NEW ACTIVITIES

Thank you to all those parents who have been emailing me with your weekend requests please continue this and REACH as well.

The College is still undergoing renovations with the outside courts being resurfaced, the rec shed toilets being completely refurbished and the kitchen storerooms and floors are now completed.

Phase 3 is being implemented on June 6<sup>th</sup> but until we have confirmation from Central Office and the Health Department, restrictions at the Resi College remain as they are for now. I will advise you of any changes as they happen.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Kind Regards,

## WELCOME BACK!

Well Golly Gosh!! We have never seen anything like what has transpired over the last 8 weeks or so! We cannot thank our staff, students, parents and peers enough for helping to make the most of a stressful situation for many!

Last term ended abruptly and within 24 hours of getting the call our facility was childless!! Let us all tell you that this is NOT a fun place without the students! We were all happy to get the call advising that we could reopen! So excited in fact that we were making phone calls at 7:00pm on a Friday night to parents and carers telling them all the good news! The tight restrictions that were originally imposed made it a tough choice for many and we slowly started to see people come back into boarding. With restrictions now eased a little bit in regards to leave as of this weekend all but 2 students are now back under our roof and we couldn't be happier!

The Students have come back to a very different boarding life but they have all adapted well and taken the changes in their stride. We know in particular they love that they have lunches prepared for them and all the staff do the cleaning up. Remember that this will not last forever you guys so make the most of it!!

Students have shown maturity and responsibility by ensuring that they are sanitising hands and surfaces when they have used them. The shared facilities have seen increased cleaning and we thank the staff and students who are all taking ownership of these areas keeping them clean and tidy and making everything as easy as possible for all those who live and work here.

Keep up the good work everyone!



## NEW CONTACT NUMBER & WIFI UPDATE

We have finally been moved over the NBN! We have a new phone number for the office, please note this change of number:

**08 9041 7500**

We have ordered modems to install better Wi-Fi in the dorms for the students to be able access the internet for study etc. These Wi-Fi connections will be subject to the same restrictions as the Wi-Fi currently available in the Common Room so it will be monitored for restricted sites, we will also have automatic switch off times for each dorm.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact staff.

## UNIFORMS

It has been getting rather chilly and we have a lot students who have told us they do not have the correct winter uniform. Black sports pants or leggings **ARE NOT** uniform. We must adhere to the Merredin College uniform policy.

There is a Merredin College Uniform Order Form attached to the newsletter, please check with your child if they need anything and arrange for the order to be completed. From after the long weekend we will be focusing on correct uniforms, you can expect a call from us if your child tells us they do not have a uniform to wear.

You can read more about the Merredin College uniform requirements on the Merredin College website.

## CLOTHING AND SPORTS BAGS

The new shirts have taken a bit of a back seat at the moment while we adjust to all the changes and getting everyone into the "new normal" routine. We will get back to these at a later date. At this stage there is not a lot of interest in the shirts.

The new bags are in! They look great and have been distributed to those who ordered them. If your child would like one they are \$53 each and are the perfect size for weekend travel! The price includes your name being embroidered on the top of the bag.

We have one behind the counter if anyone would like to have a look before they order.

If you have any questions about this please email [lauren.franklin@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:lauren.franklin@education.wa.edu.au)

## OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Unfortunately, with the restrictions that we have had to implement these last few weeks the students haven't been able to get out and do their regular sporting activities or games. So in a compromise we at the Residential College have organised to take students who wish to join on a leisurely walk. For some of the older boys, who have previously done the route we take, tend to like to jog on ahead to certain checkpoints ahead and wait for the rest of the students to catch up. The walk takes 45 minutes and we cover roughly 3 kilometers and provides the students with the chance to get out, enjoy some fresh air and gives an added chance for them to socialise amongst themselves. We have also taken students out to the Merredin Peak as a way to get out of their rooms and to also learn some of the history about Merredin from the war time.



## FORTNITE

It came to our attention recently, that we needed to update our Parent and Student Guidelines due to the fact that some Students have been playing games (ie Fornite) or watching inappropriate videos on YouTube, Netflix etc. Under the Australian Classification Guidelines games such as Fornite are rated M, as such we had to stop all students under the age of 15 from playing the game until we had written consent from the parent or caregiver of the student. Moving forward from here any Student under the age of 15 will require written consent to access this material.



## Eat, Learn, Thrive

At the end of last year, thanks to some awesome hard work and efforts from our kitchen team, we were successful in placing equal first in the 2019 Christmas Competition! The prize being a \$100 Bunnings gift card.

(Organised by The WA School Canteen Association, through the EAT LEARN THRIVE program)

With the Bunnings gift cards we purchased some more seedlings to continue to grow some lovely fresh produce for our kitchen in our very own garden!! Staff and students have put in a great effort to get the seedlings in before the rain came last weekend. This weekend we have had some more rain and the garden looks healthy and we cannot wait to see what quality veggies can be enjoyed from this crop!



## SCHOOL MAINTENANCE BLITZ

Over the unexpected break some amazing work has been carried out, we are excited to be benefiting from the School Maintenance Blitz funding. These included the removal and replacement of the existing outdoor sports courts, renovation of the ablution facilities in the Rec Shed and the replacements of flooring and renovation of storage areas in the kitchen. All of these renovations were much needed and are most welcome by staff and students alike!

The outdoor surfaces now have new bitumen and the finishing touches will begin soon. Get ready for some “friendly” rivalry on the new courts!

