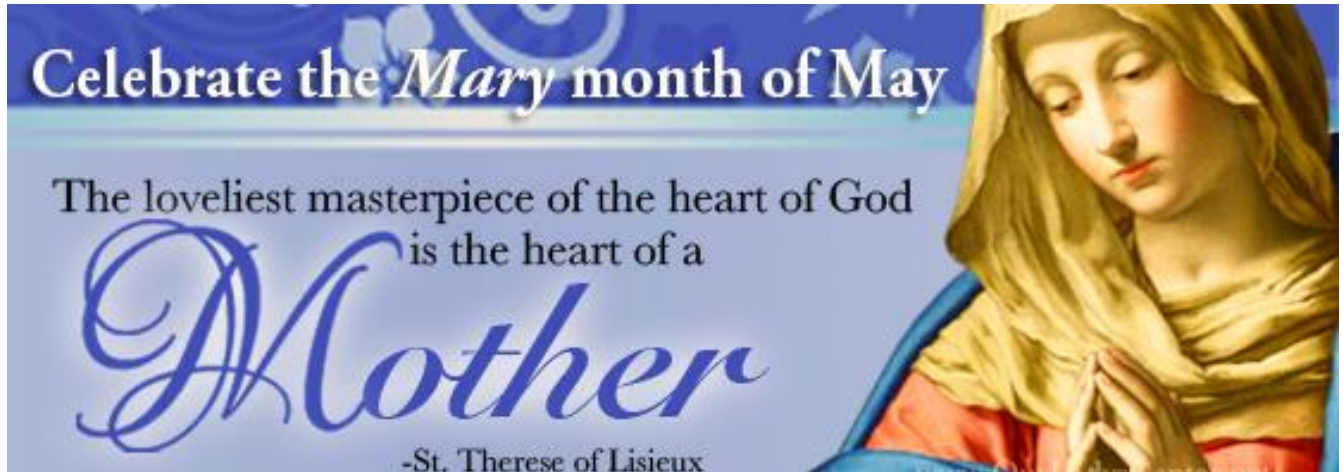




# Maronite College of the Holy Family NEWSLETTER

23-25 Alice Street, Harris Park, 2150  
Tel: 9633 6600 Email: [Admin@mchf.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Admin@mchf.nsw.edu.au)  
**Term 2 - Week 1: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



I would like to welcome you back to Term 2. I hope that you all had a very Blessed Easter and enjoyed spending quality time with your family. As we enter this special month of May, I ask you to reflect on our Blessed Mother Mary. May She be our guide who travels with us on this journey of uncertainty, and walks through our homes to spread her healing upon us all.

The College has commenced the term with Remote Learning and is open for students of parents who are required to return to work. I would like to notify all members of our community that student safety is our main priority. We have mounted sanitisers in all classrooms and hired two additional cleaners who will be on the College grounds daily to ensure all surfaces, rails, door handles etc. are regularly disinfected.

At the present time, we ask that you do not send your children to school if they are showing any flu-like symptoms. If students are sick during the day, parents will be contacted to come and pick them up. This will ensure the safety of all students and reduce the risk of them contracting any infection.

I would like to personally extend my thanks to all the parents for their continued support of the College and for adhering to our directives. As always, we will continue to provide regular updates regarding the return of students to the College and hope that we can revert to our normal routine as soon as possible.

**Sr Irene Boughosn**  
**PRINCIPAL**

*"It is only in our darkest hours that we may discover the true strength of the brilliant light within ourselves that can never, ever, be dimmed."*

*- Doe Zantamata*

## HEAD OF PRIMARY MESSAGE

Welcome back to a very unique start to the term. We certainly missed the usual noise and excitement that the first day brings, and eagerly look forward to seeing all of our students back soon. I thank all the teachers for their dedication and hard work during the students' holiday break. They have continued to work on developing class programs and preparing online resources so that their students are provided with the best opportunity to learn. All staff have certainly risen to the challenge of meeting the demands of Remote Learning in this evolving educational landscape that we find ourselves in. At home, I encourage all families to do the best that they can. As stated many times, we understand the complexities of family life during the current situation we are living through. Please remember that the staff are here to support all of our parents and students with the learning process at home. I acknowledge the fantastic work that is being completed by our students and thank the family members who are assisting them each day.

### Safety Procedures

A reminder that parents are asked not to enter the College grounds unless necessary. Access is restricted to students, staff and approved personnel only. This is to ensure that the health and safety of all those in our community remains a priority.

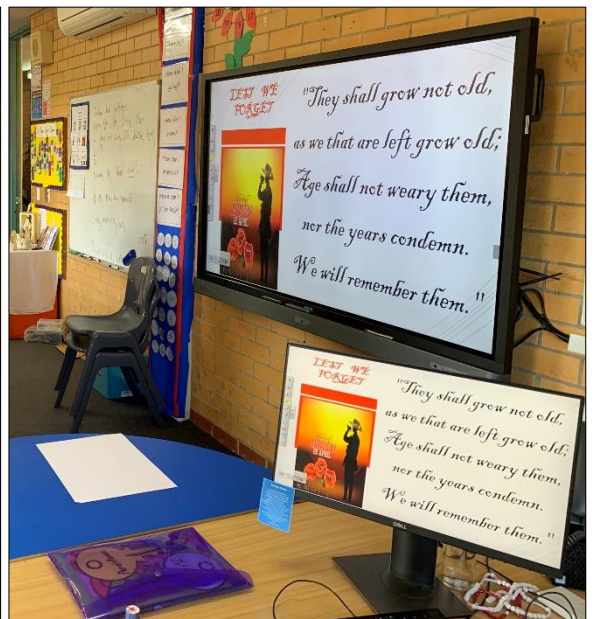
In the morning, staff will be at the front gate to welcome our students. At the end of the day, we request that you stand in the restricted area so that we can maintain health requirements by limiting personal contact. It is also asked that you leave the College grounds once your child has been collected and avoid conversing with other parents and students. Your compliance with these health and safety measures is appreciated.

### Wellbeing

The wellbeing of all members in our community is of great importance to us. This week, teachers phoned all parents and students so that they could have a quick catch up, advise them of any changes and answer possible queries they may have had. This communication is a vital part in ensuring that everyone stays connected. Teachers will also be supporting student wellbeing at home by including activities in the daily work plans. Families may enjoy completing some of these activities together. I would like to thank Ms Dagher for her work in organising the Primary Wellbeing program this term.

### ANZAC Day

Today the MCHF community commemorated ANZAC Day in a very intimate and respectful way. Just after 10:00 am, all students in their class groups stopped to participate in a specially designed ceremony which remembered our heroes. The word 'ANZAC' stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. This special day is one of Australia's most important national occasions. It marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War. We remember their sacrifice and we pray that the gift of peace and freedom, given to us by these brave people will be treasured and protected for generations to come.







### Returning staff

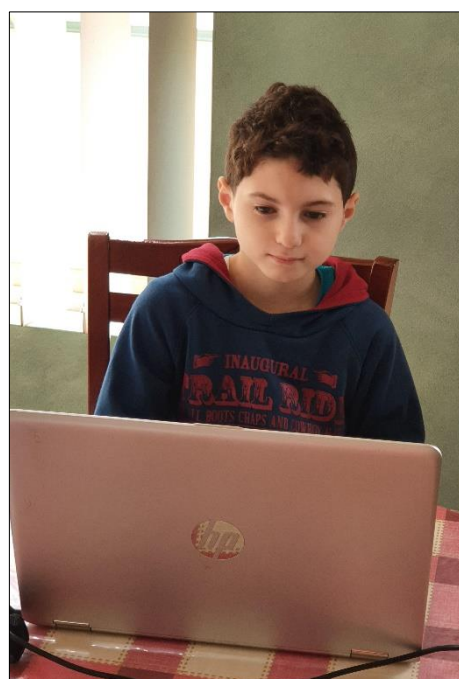
I would like to welcome back Mrs Angela Pantaleone who has returned from her leave. She will continue with her previous role on the Stage 1 Integration Team, working closely with our teachers and students each Monday and Tuesday.

### School Uniform

Term Two usually marks the beginning of students wearing the College winter uniform. Due to the continuation of Remote learning and the unpredictable weather patterns we are experiencing, the College is being flexible with the uniform being worn. It is asked however, that students wear either their full winter or full summer uniform and not a combination of both. We also request that all clothing is labelled with your child's name as this makes it easy for any lost items to be returned.

### Learning from Home

Whilst your child is not at school, teachers will continue to monitor their ongoing engagement in learning through completed work samples and daily reflections. We are grateful for the way families are supporting Remote Learning at home and are very appreciative of your understanding during its continuation.



### Learning at School

Those students who returned to school this week were able to reconnect with the College staff and their fellow



classmates. Although still following the Remote Learning Daily Plans, teachers enjoyed being able to support student learning within the class environment.



### Hygiene and Social Distance

All staff are continuing to emphasise the importance of personal hygiene. The College has ensured that a safe environment is provided to our MCHF community with a more frequent cleaning schedule and the instillation of wall mounted hand sanitisers. Social distancing has also been reinforced by all staff. As always, discussing these issues at home with your students is also extremely beneficial.

### 2020 Premiers Reading Challenge

Don't forget that even when learning remotely, students can still participate in the 2020 Premier's Reading Challenge. The rules for the challenge have been adapted to cater for the current pandemic situation. An update of the rules can be located using the following link. <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/rules.html>

A support article explaining how to add Bonus Choice Books to a student's Reading Record, has also been prepared to assist with this process. The article can be accessed via this link. [How do I add bonus choice books for 2020?](#)

### Applications for Approved Leave – Travel

Just a reminder that currently, the following applies to all MCHF families.

- Applications submitted for leave to travel, will not be accepted.
- Any family returning from an overseas trip **MUST SELF ISOLATE for 14 days prior to returning to College.** Medical documentation must be provided before returning to the College.

Mr D. Day  
Head of Primary



## HEAD OF SECONDARY MESSAGE



### Welcome Back to Term 2

Welcome back to Term 2 in still very different circumstances as we continue to battle through the COVID-19 pandemic. We are all facing this challenge – staff, students and parents; however, one thing is for sure that we will overcome the pandemic. Staff have been working extremely hard and over time to ensure they provide an effective teaching and learning experience for students. As a parent of three children, I acknowledge and understand the challenges students and parents are experiencing. My advice to you is to apply CPR (and I don't mean first aid CPR) – Church, Patience, Relationships:

- **Church** – transform an area in your home into a mini church to keep practising our Catholic faith with family members.
- **Patience** – there will be times where our patience will be tested. Learning from home is definitely a challenge and stress levels will definitely increase. In these times, patience is needed more than ever.
- **Relationships** – we see on social media various posts and we laugh at how family members play jokes and tricks on each other during isolation. However, many I speak with are saying how isolation has become a blessing within the home as it has allowed for families to reconnect and strengthen the relationships with each other.

### Term 2 Focus: Community Service

Last term we focused on Serving God as part of our theme this year, to serve. This term we focus on Community Service this term. The bible passage we are focusing on is from Matthew's Gospel "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me." (Matthew 25:40). I encourage you to apply the theme within your homes this term as we will be doing at the College.

### Remote Learning: Week 1 and 2

For the first two weeks of this term we continue our remote learning plan. Staff have now transitioned to Microsoft Teams and are using this platform for communicating with students through chats and live lessons. The College is open for students with essential working parents and for vulnerable students. Supervision will be provided for these students. Every morning, students are required to read the Daily Announcement email which I send at 8am. Within this email, there is a link for students to complete the Daily Attendance form. This is not an official attendance record, however, it is being used by the College as a source of tracking student engagement in their learning.

### Return to School Plan: Commencing Week 3

We are currently assessing around three options of a return to school plan that would be best suited and appropriate for the students. We will not rush into a decision, however we understand that notice is needed to be given to parents/guardians and students. The options we have will be finalised and we plan to announce the return to school for students by mid-week next week.

### HSC News and Updates

NESA provided a notification during the term break that the HSC exams will continue as normal this year. HSC Major Works have had modifications made. A summary of all these information was emailed to Year 12 students by Ms Dalla. Please ensure you take some time to go through the information with your child. The HSC Exam timetable is due to be released by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

### Staff Changes

We welcome back Ms Safi this term following her long service leave in Term 1. She returns and resumes her role as K-12 LOTE Coordinator.

### Work Completed during the Term Break

During the term break, several projects were completed in secondary:

- Refurbishment of new student bathrooms in A Block
- Installation of sanitizer machines in corridors, building entries and walkways.
- Shelter installed between B and C Block
- Refurbishment of the Secondary Hall storeroom
- Purchase of new student chairs for A201 and A202 classrooms.
- Installation of phones in every classroom.

### Term 2 Timetables

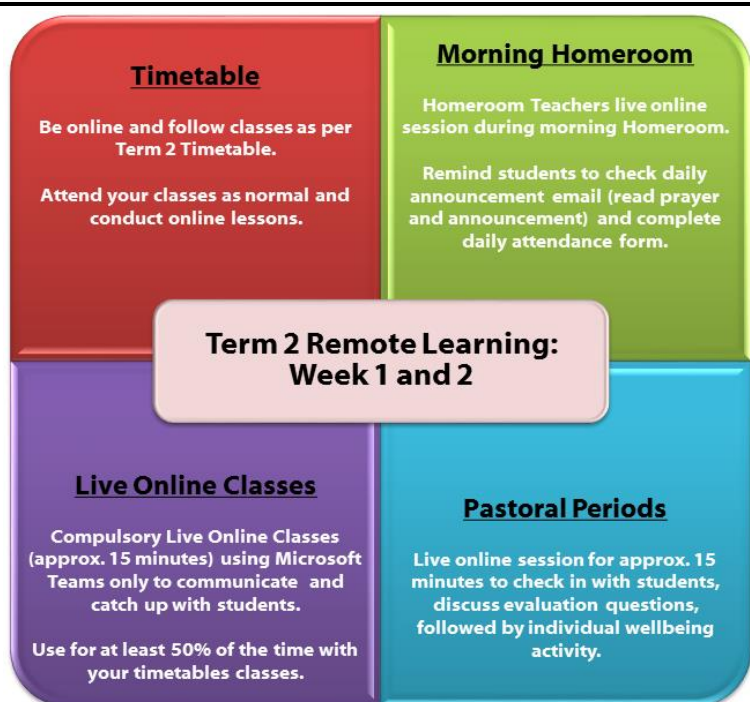
Term 2 Timetables were emailed to students on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020 which we are currently following. Please ensure your child has the correct timetable and dispose their term 1 timetable.

### Uniform

Students attending the College have the option of wearing the summer or winter uniform for the first two weeks of term 2. Commencing Week 3 of this term, all students must be in Winter Uniform which includes ties and blazers for all students.

### Playground Allocations

Commencing this term, we have made changes to students' playground allocations for recess and lunch based on feedback from students and staff. Year 7 and 8 students will be based in the B/C Block playground; Year 9 and 10 students will be based in the Grass Area; Year 11 and 12 students remain in their A Block playground.





## Staff Development Day

This term commenced with a staff development day on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020. The day focused on remote learning preparation and Microsoft Teams training. Staff worked within their departments preparing resources and adjusting learning tasks for students.

## Year 7, 2021 Enrolments

Year 7, 2021 enrolment applications will be taking place soon. Due to COVID-19, face-to-face meetings will not be held this term; however, application forms will be sent out to year 6 parents to complete and send back to the College. The application process will commence next week and year 6 parents will be notified.

## Homework Club

Commencing this term, homework club has been moved to Monday afternoons from 3:20pm – 4:20pm. However, homework club will not commence this term due to COVID-19. We will advise when homework club will recommence.

## AIS Perspectives Survey

The College annual survey will commence next week for parents/guardians, students and staff to complete. This year, the survey will commence on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020. You will receive an email from Association of Independent Schools (AIS) requesting to complete the survey. Please take the time to complete the survey in order to provide the College feedback so that we can review and implement improvement strategies.

**ANZAC (Remote) Ceremony** On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020, students received the 2020 ANZAC Ceremony presentation and activities remotely. Students were asked to watch the presentation and were encouraged to complete activities during the normal pastoral period time. We thank Ms Esber-Dayoub for preparing the ANZAC ceremony remotely.

## Elevate Education Parent Seminar

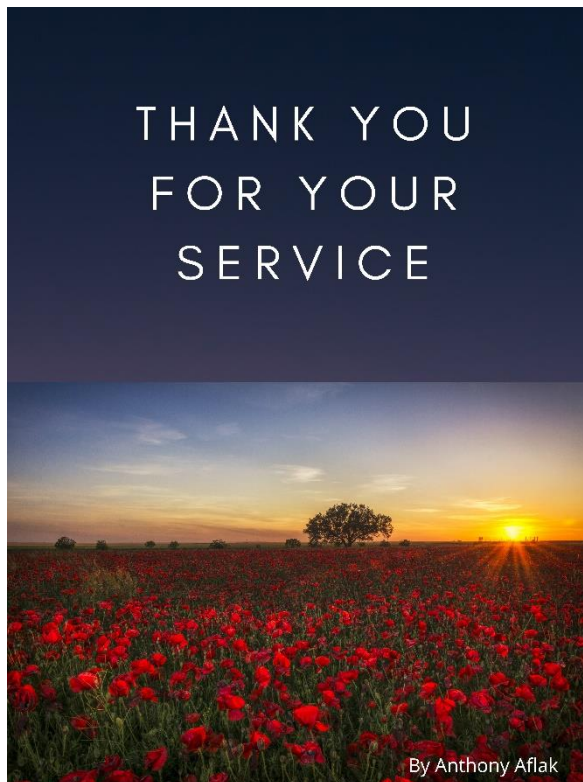
Elevate Education will be hosting a free webinar for our parents as clients and members of their program. Elevate's Head of Parent Engagement, Kane, will deliver the 60-minute webinar, which will delve into practical strategies for parents on how to boost a student's motivation, and keep them organised and engaged with their education. They will also be offering online 1:1 support for students, should the parents feel their child needs some extra support staying on top of their workload and building effective study habits over this time.

Please see below the details of the event:

- **Event Title:** How to help your child study effectively during the COVID-19 pandemic (Year 7-12 Parents)
- **Date:** Wednesday 6th May 2020
- **Time:** 6pm
- **Sign-Up Link:** <https://www.elevatecoaching.info/parent-webinar-us/>
- **Cost:** Free

**Mr E. Asmar**  
**Head of Secondary**

THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
SERVICE



By Anthony Aflak

Anzac poem... By Nelwin Nassif

*A day to remember...*

*Anzac Day a day to remember a sad and deep one,  
many promises were kept for them to come back,  
many did not sleep; they lie in bed with ducts that  
weep.*

*Soldiers rise from their bitter bed ready to fight again,  
Thoughts of sadness in their head,  
they didn't want to do this... but they had no choice,  
Facing the day with never ending dread.*

*Sobs and sobs until tears that make...  
the only other sound that breaks is the sound of a  
gunshot,  
bombs here and there of distant waves and birds  
awake.*

*Now what is Anzac Day? A day of sadness or  
realization...  
It is quite sad though it is a tale of victors and  
heroism of this country,  
They watch as the soldiers say goodbye and hello for  
the last time,  
Lest we forget...*



## THIS AND THAT

First day back at MCHF – A quiet start to the term



Morning surveys are a part of our Secondary students daily remote learning routine at MCHF!

**MY TIP TO GET THROUGH COVID...**

Focus on the positive aspects, such as the earth slowing healing itself again, and the amount of free time on our hands to learn something new!

**HOW DO YOU RATE YOUR ONLINE LEARNING TODAY?**

★★★★★

KNOW LOVE SERVE

Year 10 Student **MCHF**

Elie Joukhadar

**WHAT DID YOU ACHIEVE THIS WEEK?**

I received my maths assignment back and was proud of my mark. I achieved my goal of improving.

**HOW DO YOU RATE YOUR ONLINE LEARNING TODAY?**

★★★★★

KNOW LOVE SERVE

Year 11 Student **MCHF**

Mariana Bechara



<p><b>WHAT WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR DAY YESTERDAY?</b></p> <p>My highlight of the day yesterday was when I talked to all my friends on facetime and we all had fun together, my mum and I were also planning to remodel my room so that was fun too.</p> <p><b>HOW DO YOU RATE YOUR ONLINE LEARNING TODAY?</b></p> <p>★★★★★</p> <p>KNOW LOVE SERVE</p>	<p>Isabella Bou Melhem</p>  <p>Year 7 Student</p> <p><b>MCHF</b></p>	<p><b>MY TIP TO GET THROUGH COVID...</b></p> <p>Be able to adapt and persevere to the situation rather than relying on the situation to change for you.</p> <p><b>HOW DO YOU RATE YOUR ONLINE LEARNING TODAY?</b></p> <p>★★★★★</p> <p>KNOW LOVE SERVE</p>	<p>Robbie El Bazouni (College Captain)</p>  <p>Year 12 Student</p> <p><b>MCHF</b></p>
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## PARENT CORNER

### College Survey

Our College is using the Perspectives: Your school in focus suite of surveys developed by AISNSW to support our College improvement endeavours. The information gathered will assist in furthering the growth and development of our College community. We will use the survey results to help inform and direct future College planning and improvement strategies.

These surveys have been specifically designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of stakeholders' perceptions of five important areas: School Environment, Teaching and Learning, Student Wellbeing, Leadership and Community. All staff, students, parents/guardians, leaders and board members will be invited to participate.

The surveys will be available to all parents of students from Kindergarten to Year 12 and students from Years 5 to 12 from Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020 to Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

The Survey is conducted online, taking approximately 15- 20 minutes to complete.

Your input and contribution are important to the success of our continuous College improvement process as we aspire to improve the learning experience for everyone at our College.

A Parent information letter was distributed to all parents on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. This letter has been attached again for your information.

Further information and a link regarding access to the survey will be emailed closer to the survey date.

### BYOD LINK AND CODE

<https://www.jbeducation.com.au/byod/>

School Code: MCHFBYOD

**ALL FAMILIES are required to download the SkoolBag app (free) from your app store and create an account linked to our College. This ensures you receive urgent College news immediately.**

To receive our newsletter via email, please email us - [admin@mchf.nsw.edu.au](mailto:admin@mchf.nsw.edu.au)

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