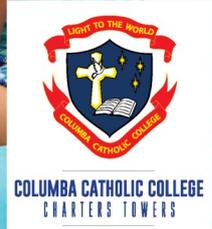


# Shine at Columba

## Residential News

30 April 2020



Dear Parents/Caregivers, Students and Staff,

Welcome back to Term 2. I hope that everything is going as well as can be in light of the Coronavirus outbreak. Term 1 came to a sudden, premature end with all the boarders having to return home early. I thank all of our wonderful staff and parents who made this happen in a professional, efficient and timely way.

Maintaining a positive attitude no matter what the circumstance is something that we encourage all students to possess. New skills and ways of doing things will emerge as time goes on. Staff and students have had to engage more deeply in the online world, upskilling themselves with online conferencing and teaching techniques. Comfort zones have certainly been stretched, but at the same time it is satisfying to be able to engage and master a whole new set of skills.

Boarding has re-opened in a limited capacity with a small number of boys and girls returning to the residences. Strict social distancing rules have been implemented so that all students and staff are kept safe. I am proud to say that our residential students have taken these social distancing rules seriously and have exercised great patience. Hand washing and sanitizing practices are strictly adhered to at the College so as to ensure the safety of all residents.

This week, online tutoring was made available to all boarding students. Information in regards to online tutoring was posted in the relevant Boarding Classroom. Boarders have access to a booking schedule through the relevant Google Boarding Classroom (Classwork/Boarding Study/Online Tutoring Nomination Form – Term 2). Students can book up to two 15 minutes sessions consecutively. I strongly encourage students to utilise this service provided by the College so that they stay abreast of their studies whilst in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic.

As you are aware, last Saturday, was ANZAC Day. Our boarders did the driveway ceremony holding a candle and a wreath to show their collective support and commemoration of all those men and women who sacrificed so much so that we may live a free and better life today. Our students looked magnificent in their formal uniforms standing-to like old soldiers.

This term the College will continue to implement the Residential Life Skills program – virtually for many!! Soon more information pertaining to this program will be shared with students. So please keep a close eye on the Boarding Google Classroom/s page (that pertains to your child) for more information.

The Kelly Block Recreation Area is nearly complete with a handball court, two table tennis tables, a pool table, television, lounge chairs and bean bags. Boarders who have returned to the school have already enjoyed the Kelly Recreation Area. What a wonderful place for our students to sit, play and enjoy one another's company. I must thank Mrs Fuller, Mrs Burns and the residential staff for seeing this project through to fruition.

Regards



Dan Kyle  
**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL -  
PASTORAL/RESIDENTIAL**

## RESIDENTIAL LEADER REPORT - BOYS

Term 2 has certainly started off on a different note and not at all how we envisaged a school term starting. This being said, in true Columba Spirit everyone has evolved and adapted to our new situation.

Residential staff have been busy establishing new zones in residence and we hope when the boys return, they will be excited to see what has been done.

Some students that have returned and we have endeavoured to have the same structure and routine and have some semblance of normality in these uncertain times.

Anzac Day was celebrated in a different way and Boys' Boarding, along with many members of the Charters Towers community, stood at the front gates of our homes to remember those who have fallen and those still with us and to show our respect and gratitude. We then celebrated the day with Colby Whelan cooking his Grandmother's recipe for Anzac Biscuits, and Davauntay Peters and Blake Campbell making an Aussie favourite- Dampier with golden treacle.

A Google Classroom has been set up for Boys' Boarding and we will have our Residential Life Skills delivered in this fashion. This is a way for us to keep in touch with the boys' with competitions, challenges etc.

Over the coming weeks I will be ringing to see how you are all going and if there is anything I can do to help.

If you have any concerns, please email me on [lfuller7@columba.catholic.edu.au](mailto:lfuller7@columba.catholic.edu.au) or phone or message on 0438 489 917.

Llana Fuller

**RESIDENTIAL LEADER - BOYS' BOARDING**



## RESIDENTIAL LEADER REPORT - GIRLS

Welcome back to a different start to term 2 in boarding. Whilst the majority of girls remain at home with their families and are engaging in online learning, we have welcomed back some students into boarding. Even though we have to adhere to some strict social distancing rules at school and in boarding and utilise good hygiene practices, it has not dampened the spirits of the students who have returned. The general consensus from the girls when they return each day from school is that they have had a really good day and have been able to work productively to complete all their assigned school work.

The girls are enjoying afternoons and activities at the Mt Carmel campus whilst engaging in walks, games and for some, just enjoying the fresh air away from the residence. Saturday nights are spent relaxing by the campfire with Milo, marshmallows, Tim Tams and some cool beats.

During these uncertain times, our priority and focus has been to ensure boarding students maintain a close family bond that is created in our residences. One of the ways we have managed this is by engaging students at home and in boarding with some online fun activities and competitions through our Boarding Google Classroom. To date, this has been well received and prizes for winning students have been mailed out. Keeping to a study routine, the girls have been practising the art of letter writing to keep connected with their friends and fellow boarders.

Online tutoring is available for all boarding students should they require assistance with any of their school work. This can be

accessed through Google Classroom. If you need further assistance with anything, please don't hesitate to contact me on 0418 782 814 or email me on [mburns1@columba.catholic.edu](mailto:mburns1@columba.catholic.edu).

Have a great fortnight and keep up the great work!

Michelle Burns

**RESIDENTIAL LEADER - GIRLS' BOARDING**

