

St Mary MacKillop

Compassion ~ "Be of good heart" (St Mary MacKillop 1876)

NEWS

INSIDE

Vision

As partners in Catholic education and open to God's presence, we pursue fullness of life for all.

Mission

At St Mary MacKillop College we are people who affirm the dignity of every person, who act with respect and compassion, who reverence relationships, who have hearts for generosity and forgiveness.

We celebrate our Catholic identity.

We respect the unique dignity, faith and gifts of each person.

We value learning, aspiration and connectedness and we work together to create a positive future.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

Term 2 has started, albeit in a new way. It has been quite overwhelming planning for online learning, and I appreciate the support of all members of our community at this time.

We have tried to ensure that Parents/Guardians and students are all receiving the information that they need in a timely manner. More information will be sent out in the coming weeks, however, we are conscious that we do not want to overload you with too much at once. If we have missed something that you require information about, please let us know.

We have had a small number of students working from school due to their circumstances and meeting the attendance criteria. The students attending are working hard and giving us an understanding of the difficulties that you might be having in an online environment. I thank the parents and guardians that have emailed or called and provided feedback. We are only in our first week of this journey and we will get better. Knowing the things that are going well or are not is very helpful for our planning moving forward. Thank you also for the wonderful messages of support. If we can't do anything else, we can be kind and look out for each other.

Unfortunately, due to our current restrictions there will be more extra-curricular activities that we cannot proceed with this term. All **sporting activities and excursions, including Year Level Reflection Days** have either been cancelled or postponed. Unfortunately, our school performance of *Seussical the Musical* will also not go ahead in its current format, but we are hopeful of determining an alternate way to show this.

Friday, 17 April 2020

- From the Deputy Principal
- Stay Informed
- Teaching and Learning
- Staff Email Addresses

**ABSENCE NOTIFICATION
PH: 5032 9771
Press 2**

FUTURE EVENTS

MAY

Wed 6th 2021 Year 7 Enrolment Expressions of Interest Open

Mon 18th – Fri 22nd LOTE Week

Mon 25th – Fri 29th Catholic Education Week
Library Week

JUNE

Mon 1st – Fri 5th Humanities Week

Mon 8th Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

Fri 26th Last Day of Term 2

JULY

Monday 13th First Day of Term 3
2021 Year 7 Enrolments Close



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The Parent Student Teacher Interviews scheduled for April 28th have been cancelled. Therefore, it is important that you make direct contact with your child's teacher if you have concerns. As most teachers are working off site, an email is the best form of communication at this time.

We were planning to conduct two days of **Transition for Grade 6** students this term. This has been cancelled, however we hope to provide opportunities for our Grade 6 students in Terms 3 and 4. Our Enrolment timeline will continue. We are currently in the process of creating an **Enrolment Expression of Interest Form** on our website. We will promote this through our newsletter, Facebook, local Primary school newsletters and on the radio in the coming weeks. Enrolment Expression of Interests for Year 7 2021 will be accepted from Wednesday 6th May 2020.

The College website is www.smmc.vic.edu.au. Please share this information with anyone not currently in our community that is interested in enrolling at the school in 2021. We will also be providing online information sessions. So, watch this space.

We want to make remote learning as easy as we can for you. Please know that we do not expect you to teach your children, but to be a support and continue to encourage them to attend all classes and communicate with their teachers.

Go gently at the moment. Breathe and know that we are here if you need us.

Regards
Michelle Haeusler
Principal

ANNOUNCEMENT

I am delighted to announce to our school community that Mrs Michelle Haeusler has been offered and accepted a second contract as principal of St Mary MacKillop College. I thank Michelle for accepting this contract, which will commence January 2021.

Thank you to all staff, students and parents who participated in the review process, and an especial thank you to the panel members who conducted this. Let us congratulate Michelle on this and look forward to moving in a positive direction as a school community.

Fr Matthew Thomas
Parish Priest

CONGRATULATIONS

Our students are constantly achieving some wonderful feats outside of school and it is with great pleasure that I share another great achievement within the school community. It is fantastic to hear that Alannah Burns has been elected to represent Australia at the Regency Horse Floats Hunter & Show Horse Championships 2020. This will commence in Tamworth and lands in Canberra in November. Alannah will also represent Australia in the New Zealand Tour in 2021 as part of the Australian National Team. This wonderful accomplishment has been achieved through a lot of hard work and dedication. Alannah certainly has the drive and passion to continue to do well. We are certainly very proud of her and we wish her all the best in her upcoming competitions as well as these Championships in November. Well done Alannah.



FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

A huge thank you to our students and families for your overwhelming support of our new learning environment. It is not without its challenges and I am sure it is going to be a space of great learning and innovation as we become more confident and comfortable with Online Learning.

One of the most important things about success in an online environment is being present. Our expectation is that students attend all timetabled lessons. The first thing they should do is to Sign In to their Learning Area Forum for their subject. They should then enter the Google Classroom or check their emails for instructions from their teacher. Not every lesson will require them to be looking at the screen for 100% of the time however we do expect that they stay connected to their learning and that they are following teachers' instructions.

Students should not opt in or out of classes based on choice. We will still be taking attendance and as teachers we trust that parents want their children to be attending classes and as such we will follow up with students who are not present.

Our College Community Expectations still certainly apply in our new learning environment though undoubtedly they have new applications.

We are on time and ready to learn.

- We sign into forum on time
- We are ready to enter the Google Classroom on time
- We join Meets on time
- We have our MacBook charged and our materials ready
- We are awake and alert

We always follow staff instructions.

- We stay on task
- We listen to instructions
- We don't turn off your camera without notification
- We complete the work we are doing together

We all use appropriate language.

- We only post positive and kind remarks to our chat threads
- We encourage each other
- We don't plagiarise, we don't use others words as our own

We respect ourselves, others and our learning environment.

- We join our Meet well dressed and well presented.
- We are careful about who is in the background and their privacy
- We respect each other's online space by not commenting on our peers setting
- We respect each other's privacy by not taking screenshots and using social media
- We stay in the Classroom or Meet until instructed to leave

We are responsible for our own behaviour.

- We make sure we have everything we need for our lessons
- We don't distract others or chat while there is instruction going on
- We don't use excuses for not doing our work
- We ask for help and clarification
- We do our best with our learning

Homeroom

Our students will still be attending Homeroom each morning. This is a wonderful way for them to stay connected to the school community. If parents have any concerns about how their child is engaging with their learning or their general wellbeing, please do not hesitate to contact the Homeroom Teacher as your first port of call.

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Creating a Learning from Home Space

Learning from home presents students and families with some new challenges. Not only do we need to get used to a new way of learning, we also need to work around a new space. Believe me, as a parent of two Secondary aged students I too have rearranged the house to create a Home School!

The following tips are aimed at supporting you at setting up an effective learning environment in your home.

Tip # 1 Keep a good school routine

- Students should get up and organised at the same time each day.
- Maybe have the same types of food (breakfast /lunch) you normally would.
- Students should stick to the timetable as much as they can.

Tip # 2 Create a well-lit, comfortable, powered up space

Each learning space will be slightly different, especially when there are a few students in the same 'Home School' but try to make sure your space has these characteristics:

- In a well-lit place (natural light is great if you can do it)
- Natural light is healthy for you physically and emotionally. Keep that natural light flowing!
- Comfortable sitting and table top height (avoid sitting at the living room coffee table)
- Near a power outlet if computer access is required

Try to distinguish between the 'school space' and the rest of your home so the child can metaphorically hang up their school bag and relax at the end of their day.

Tip # 3 Lights, camera... action!

Remember that at times your child will be doing some face to face-to-face with teachers and other students via video conferencing on Google Meet. When setting up your child's desk space, take into consideration what their camera will pick up behind them. Make sure the room is well lit, and that it is free of any personal effects or items you may not want others to see.

Things may not be perfect and we will need to be flexible and patient. The thing is to do the best we can with the resources available to us. Online Learning is a change and keeping calm and maintaining a routine as much as possible will help everyone.

Again, thank you for your wonderful response to what is a new experience for all of us. I look forward to the journey!

Catherine Howison
Deputy Principal

Effective Teaching
is not simply a matter of
executing specific behaviors
and strategies,
because effective teaching is
grounded in human relationships.

Robert J. Marzano & Jana S. Marzano



The teacher next door

STAY INFORMED



www.facebook.com/SMMCSwanhill



<https://twitter.com/SMMCSwanHill>



Parent Access Module

<https://pam.mackillopsh.vic.edu.au/Login/Default.aspx>

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Tenison 5	Mr Eddie Scholtens escholtens@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au	Xavier 5	Ms Suzy Haley shaley@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au

A New Learning Paradigm

Welcome back to Term 2. I hope everyone was able to have a relaxing holiday break in spite of this current situation. I spent a lot of the holiday break reading all the latest news about COVID-19 and the move to online learning in Victorian schools. To come to school on Wednesday for the start of Term 2 to hear no noise in the yard from our students was a very unusual experience. My thoughts and prayers are with the members of our community who continue to be affected by the loss of employment as a result of this pandemic.

‘A new learning paradigm’ was a heading that stood out to me in one article I read. Indeed, we have moved into a new learning paradigm. During this time your child will be involved in two types of online learning: synchronous and asynchronous. Synchronous learning is where students and teachers are meeting ‘live’ online. We use the Google Suite of apps which provides a great range of tools for students to collaborate, in particular Google Meet and Google Classroom. We are using Google Meet to facilitate video calls throughout this period of online learning. The Google Meet calls may last for a short time and then the students may be directed to do some asynchronous learning. Asynchronous learning is where students operate with teacher direction, but without the real-time or ‘live’ interaction that Google Meet provides. For example, a teacher may set students some work to complete and upload on the Google Classroom for their class. The benefits of asynchronous learning are that students are able to work at their own pace and take time to absorb the content presented to them. Teachers will be available during their scheduled class time. They will use a blend of synchronous and asynchronous learning. It is important that students regularly check their emails and Google Classrooms for information sent by their teachers.

Thank you to the staff at the College for their great support as we have made the move to online learning as seamless as possible. Thank you to the students who have been so adaptable and agile as we move into this new learning environment. And lastly, thank you to the families for your support and setting up spaces in your homes that are conducive to online learning. There is so much support material for parents that has been published over the past few weeks, and no doubt this will continue into the future. While this material is very useful, it can be overwhelming to read everything that is published. We have created a dedicated space on the College website for parents to access the support material.

This is a time when we have to look after each other. I have mentioned previously that one of the many things Catholic schools do so well is care for the wellbeing of all in our community. I love finding new and interesting education related infographics and posters, and I recently came across a ‘Coping Calendar’ on the ‘Action for happiness’ website (<https://www.actionforhappiness.org/coping-calendar>) and this is included at the end of this newsletter. Listed on this poster are 30 actions for us to look after ourselves and each other during this global crisis. We have said to our students that during this time of online learning that having a break from our screens is so important. You may like to try some of the suggested actions on this poster. I said to the staff on Tuesday that we are all in this together. We will support each other through this time with a positive mindset. As someone who loves technology I am particularly excited to explore new technologies that support student learning throughout this time of teaching and learning online. At the end of our time online I have no doubt the skills of our students and teaching staff will increase.

Online learning will require a shift in the way we have been working to date at school. There will be no bells ringing at home, and we will have to watch the time carefully to know when the next class starts and finishes. When you are not attending a Google Meet class, you will need to be disciplined and show you are able to work independently on tasks set by your teacher. Another wonderful thing we do so well in Catholic schools is form positive working relationships with our students. Of course this will continue as we work remotely, and our teachers will be more than willing to answer questions sent to them and to support you throughout your online learning journey.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

There are many tips I can provide students for success in their learning at home. I will share my top five tips:

- Be punctual to all classes and remember to record your attendance
- Find a study space in your home that is conducive to working online
- Be organised and complete the set work from your teachers
- Let your teachers know if you experience any difficulties with the work that has been set
- Factor in break times during the day. Brain breaks and rest time is so important.

My thoughts are with our senior students who have had their studies disrupted by moving to online learning. As our senior students commence their Term 2 studies, you may find the information in the following websites useful as you get back on track for a successful term of learning.

<https://www.generationnext.com.au/2020/01/set-yourself-up-for-a-great-year-2/>
<https://pursuit.unimelb.edu.au/articles/tips-and-tricks-to-boost-your-year-12-scores>

If you have any questions, staff can be contacted by email. The list of staff emails has been included in this newsletter. I wish our students all the very best for their studies in Term 2.

Changes to the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) and Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) in 2020

Earlier this week we received an update from the VCAA. VCAL students will have more time to complete their courses and this will be consistent with the revised dates for the VCE. The VCAA has been asked to consider a compressed end-of-year exam schedule in recognition of the disruption caused by the pandemic.

Confirmation of changes and timelines

VCE Unit 3

We will extend the indicative dates of the end of VCE Unit 3 by two weeks to 26 June 2020 in recognition of the disruption to the end of Term 1 and the move to remote and flexible learning in Term 2.

As Unit 3 is in the process of delivery there will be no changes to the teaching and assessment program as outlined in the Study Design. Teachers will proceed with their current teaching and learning programs to allow Unit 3 to be completed as designed. The VCAA will provide advice in the week commencing 20 April 2020 on which Unit 3 school-based assessments can be completed remotely, and those needing to be completed on site in recognition of their practical nature and the facilities required for an authentic assessment. Further advice will be provided to schools to assist teachers in authentication and verification processes for remotely delivered assessments.

VCE Unit 4

The VCAA is currently reviewing all VCE Study Designs, with a particular focus on Unit 4, to reduce, where possible, school-based assessment tasks to relieve some pressure on students as they move to remote and flexible learning arrangements. This review will include the small number of studies where the assessment item is across both Unit 3 and Unit 4, as there may need to be adjustment to both Units to adequately account for the disruption. The VCAA is working with the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority to expedite accreditation of all Study Designs and will make them available by 25 April 2020.

VCAL

There will be no change to VCAL content or assessment, except in relation to the mandatory VET requirements.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Literacy at SMMC

In the last newsletter I wrote about our College's commitment to developing the literacy skills of all students. I will endeavour to write about literacy in the College newsletter throughout the year. In the link below you will find 10 literacy tips for parents and caregivers.

<https://readingaustralia.com.au/2016/11/10-literacy-tips-for-parents-and-caregivers/>

Assessment and Reporting Update

The TA interviews are an important part of the teaching and learning program at the College. They will still go ahead this term and be conducted through Google Meet.

Due to online learning, the exams for students in Years 8 to 11 will not occur at the end of Term 2.

Nathan Lane

Deputy Principal: Teaching and Learning

@SMMC ONLINE LEARNING

WHILE YOU ARE LEARNING FROM HOME, THERE ARE THINGS YOU CAN DO TO STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR CLASS & YOUR TEACHER AND GET THE MOST OUT OF ONLINE LEARNING.

LEARNING AT HOME

What your teacher will do...

They will be available online during the time when they normally teach your class. During this time they may:

- Communicate to you via email, Google Classroom or Learning Areas
- Teach a class using Google Meet
- Communicate with you via a shared Google Doc or Google Hangouts
- They will do everything they can to support you!

What you should do...

- attend Homeroom online at the start of the day.
- check and answer your emails.
- open Learning Areas at the start of each lesson and sign in to the Class Forum.
- enter Google Classrooms for instructions from your teacher.
- complete any work set by your teachers to the best of your ability.



Being online

Whether your Class is using gmail Google Meet, docs or Hangouts, there are things to remember:

- be appropriately dressed if using Google Meet and be aware of your family members & their privacy
- our school expectations of Acceptable Use of Technology always apply.

CONNECTING

Access from Home



IT Support will be available to students

Ricky - 0400 980 917

Ian - 0439 926 425

Access Hours 8.30am - 4.00pm

Work Habits at home....

- find a quiet space in your house to work
- check emails at the start of the day
- follow the times of a normal school day as much as possible including breaks
- leave your phone turned off and maybe even in another room
- keep following good hygiene habits to stay healthy and strong.

BEING ORGANISED

We are all in this together!



TEACHING AND LEARNING

What I learnt today at SMMC...

During Term 1 I tried to visit as many classes as I could and I took photos of students engaging in their learning. These photos were published in the fortnightly school newsletter. As we have moved to online learning I will still include photos and reflections. I invited students and staff to send photos of themselves engaging in online teaching and learning this week. Many thanks to those who contributed to this edition of the newsletter. Enjoy!



Trinity Sutton engaging in her online learning



John Hoare: I learned about how school life is going to be like in Term 2. Some subjects, like Art, will be easy for me, while others, like Maths, are hard for me. I must give all of them a go though, it's just life for now and we have to accept it.



A selfie of Mrs Alderuccio at her online teaching space!



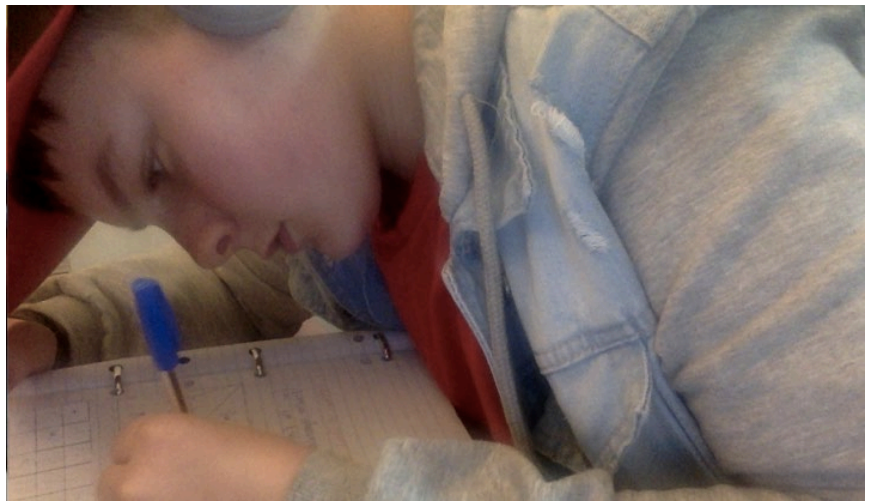
Mr Hirst's Year 11 Health class is studying nutrition. Here is Mr Hirst teaching live from his kitchen going through some healthy recipes.

This week online I learnt the challenges of online learning and how much we take school for granted (Caitlyn Tidyman).

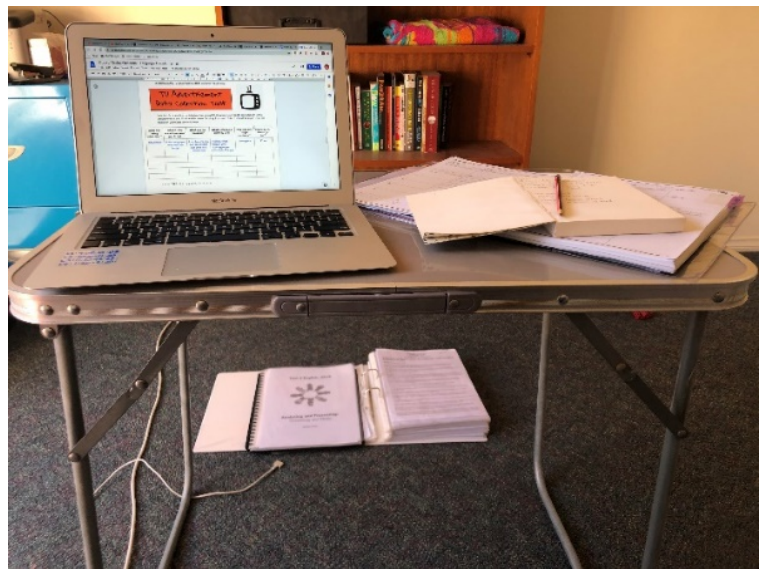
TEACHING AND LEARNING



Emma Hoare: This week online I learnt that I miss seeing all of my friends at school every day, but I am looking forward to adapting to the situation and enjoying this new form of learning!



Jesse Schulz is studying hard at home



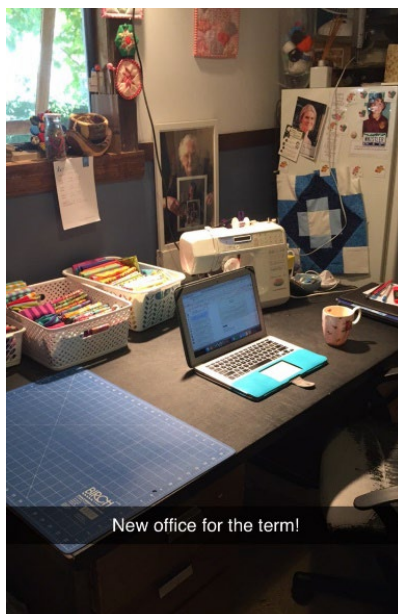
Ms Dalton's online teaching space for this term!



Emily Button's learning space



Natasha Timwez's learning space



New office for the term!

Mrs Op't Hoog's new office for the term!



Remi Alderuccio's learning space

FROM OUR 2020 ACADEMIC COMMITTEE CAPTAINS

Deandra South and Grace Scott put together a series of interview questions and reflections based on their first week of online learning. Thank you Deandra and Grace!

What do you miss most about physically being at school?

Being able to socialize and hang out with friends. It's my last year of high school and it is disheartening that the senior students and myself cannot enjoy the things we've watched past senior students get to do and celebrate together.

What has been the biggest challenge you've faced so far regarding online learning?

Motivating myself to study and do homework as there is no longer a teacher physically there to assist me.

What's something you have found to be a positive aspect of learning/teaching remotely?

Getting to study in an environment I'm comfortable with, as well as utilizing my time in the morning to study and be productive.

What are you doing to take care of your physical and mental health during these times?

I'm walking my dog every couple of days and swimming in my pool when it's warm to keep myself active. I also listen to music and read to keep my mind in a positive headspace.

What's something new you have learned since beginning online teaching/learning?

I've learned that physically being at school with other people is very crucial in motivating my studies. Being at home is relaxing but it inevitably makes it harder to push myself to complete the work I'm assigned. I've also learnt how important and vital communication is in the school and social setting. Despite being at home, I've still had to keep in touch with peers and have even organized online study groups in order to stay motivated and on top of things.



What do you miss most about physically being at school?

Socialising with my friends and working collaboratively in person.

What has been the biggest challenge you've faced so far regarding online learning?

Competing with the other four people working from home in my household for a stable internet connection!

What's something you have found to be a positive aspect of learning/teaching remotely?

Getting to sit in front of my bedroom window and having the sun shine in on myself and my workspace and being able to spend the time I would usually use travelling to and from school to be productive.

What are you doing to take care of your physical and mental health during these times?

I've been going for an hour-long walk every morning to keep fit and to take some time for myself to quietly think or listen to music. I've also been able to spend more time reading for pleasure, doing some colouring for mindfulness and completing a few Sudoku and crossword puzzles.

What's something new you have learned since beginning online teaching/learning?

Video calling your teachers and peers may not be quite as efficient or enjoyable as going to class in person, but we're very lucky in this modern age to have access to the resources that allow us to do the next best thing.



ART & DESIGN

Despite the challenges that come with remote learning, Term Two has presented students with a whole new perspective on how to produce artworks. A variety of digital technologies are being used including; Google sheets, Google Docs, and Google Drawings. The result has been an exciting exploration into the many opportunities that are available to us from online resources. Students are becoming more confident as they experiment with elements and principles. The following snapshot of artworks from this week include pixel art, info graphics, digital badges and posters.

Jeremy Wood

Art & Design Teacher



Tess Meney – Info Graphic



Madison Le Guier – Digital Poster



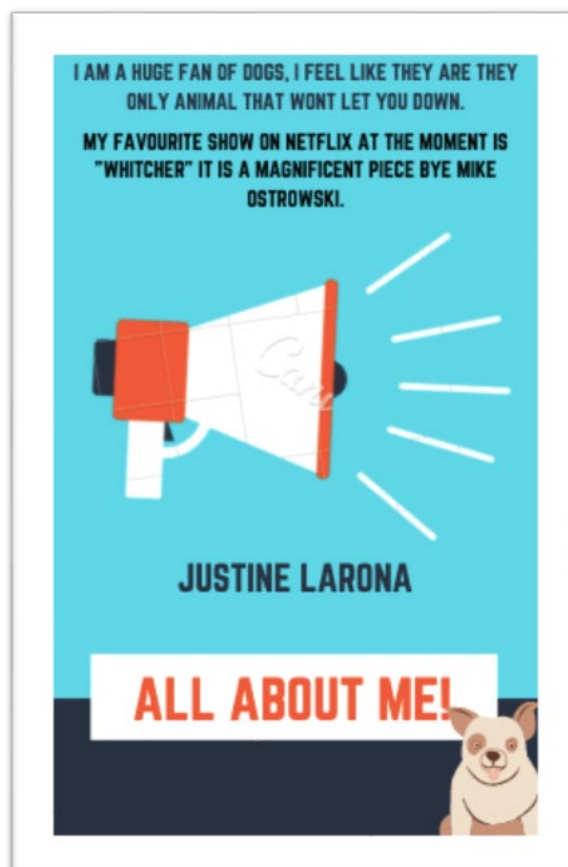
Sebastian Papa – Digital Badge



Sasha Nelson – Pixel Art



Madison Le Guier – Photo Journal



Justine Larona – Digital Poster

MAKING THE MOST OF ONLINE LEARNING @SMMC



STARTING YOUR DAY ONLINE

Prepare for the school day

Put on appropriate casual clothes for online learning

Check your online resources are accessible and your device is charged

Organise your desk space, have pens, paper and books available

Fill your water bottle.



8.55 AM - 9.03 AM HOMEROOM

Attend Homeroom online for messages from your Homeroom Teacher, Prayer and Daily Bulletin

9.08 AM - 10.08 AM

LESSON 1

Sign in to your Class Forum on Learning Areas

Focus, engage and participate

Make a note of any questions for your teacher.



10.08 AM - 10.18 AM.

BREAK

Brain break, screen free, get up and be active, have something to drink or eat.

10.20 AM - 11.20 AM LESSON 2

Sign in to your Class Forum on Learning Areas

Focus, engage and participate

Make a note of any questions for your teacher.



11.20 AM - 11.30 AM.

BREAK

Brain break, screen free, get up and be active, have something to drink or eat.

11.32 AM - 12.32 PM LESSON 3

Sign in to your Class Forum on Learning Areas

Focus, engage and participate

Make a note of any questions for your teacher.



12:32PM - 1:17PM. LUNCHTIME

1.20 PM - 2.20 PM

LESSON 4

Sign in to your Class Forum on Learning Areas

Focus, engage and participate

Make a note of any questions for your teacher.

2.20 PM- 3.15 PM

SELF DIRECTED LEARNING

Use this time to work on tasks for individual subjects, work collaboratively with other students online, revise and study, read and prepare.



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COPING CALENDAR: KEEP CALM. STAY WISE. BE KIND



30 actions to look after ourselves and each other as we face this global crisis together. Please use & share 🙏

1 Make a plan to help you keep calm and stay in contact

2 Enjoy washing your hands. Remember all they do for you!

3 Write down ten things you feel grateful for in life and why

4 Stay hydrated, eat healthy food and boost your immune system

5 Get active. Even if you're stuck indoors, move & stretch

6 Contact a neighbour or friend and offer to help them

7 Share what you are feeling and be willing to ask for help

8 Take five minutes to sit still and breathe. Repeat regularly

9 Call a loved one to catch up and really listen to them

10 Get good sleep. No screens before bed or when waking up

11 Notice five things that are beautiful in the world around you

12 Immerse yourself in a new book, TV show or podcast

13 Respond positively to everyone you interact with

14 Play a game that you enjoyed when you were younger

15 Make some progress on a project that matters to you

16 Rediscover your favourite music that really lifts your spirits

17 Learn something new or do something creative

18 Find a fun way to do an extra 15 minutes of physical activity

19 Do three acts of kindness to help others, however small

20 Make time for self-care. Do something kind for yourself

21 Send a letter or message to someone you can't be with

22 Find positive stories in the news and share these with others

23 Have a tech-free day. Stop scrolling and turn off the news

24 Put your worries into perspective and try to let them go

25 Look for the good in others and notice their strengths

26 Take a small step towards an important goal

27 Thank three people you're grateful to and tell them why

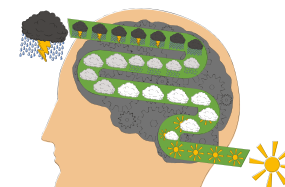
28 Make a plan to meet up with others again later in the year

29 Connect with nature. Breathe and notice life continuing

30 Remember that all feelings and situations pass in time



“Everything can be taken from us but one thing: the freedom to choose our attitude in any given set of circumstances” ~ Viktor Frankl



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Find out more about the Ten Keys to Happier Living, including books, guides, posters and more here: www.actionforhappiness.org/10-keys