



27 July 2022

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

COVID-19 UPDATE – ACTIVATION OF YEAR 8 INDEPENDENT REMOTE LEARNING

Upon the return of Term Three 2022, the College is experiencing an increasing number of our staff needing to isolate due to contracting COVID-19 or other illness. To date we have been able to employ supply teachers to cover the classes of absent teachers, however this is proving to be increasingly difficult as the current COVID-19 context continues to evolve.

As such, the College will be activating rotating Independent Remote Learning for Year 8 students next week from **Monday 1st August to Friday 5th August 2022**. The schedule for the week is shown below:

Day	Classes completing Remote Learning	Classes at School
Monday 1 st August	8A & 8B	8C, 8D, 8E, 8F, 8G, 8H, 8I, 8J
Tuesday 2 nd August	8C & 8D	8A, 8B, 8E, 8F, 8G, 8H, 8I, 8J
Wednesday 3 rd August	8E & 8F	8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, 8G, 8H, 8I, 8J
Thursday 4 th August	8G & 8H	8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, 8E, 8F, 8I, 8J
Friday 5 th August	8I & 8J	8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, 8E, 8F, 8G, 8H

This strategy aims to provide students with the opportunity to experience continuity in learning and continue with key elements of their programs whilst enabling the College to operate.

In circumstances where students are scheduled to engage in Independent Remote Learning, they will be required to learn from home or an offsite location for the day and log into MyPenola to complete the coursework provided by subject teachers. Staff will be taking other classes so Teams meetings will not occur. Students will be required to allocate time to tasks as per their College Timetable for the nominated day.

Please note that the College is able to make exceptions for vulnerable children in Year 8 who are unable to engage in Independent Remote Learning on the designated days of Monday August 1 – Friday August 5. We therefore anticipate a small number of Year 8 students who may need onsite supervision at Penola Catholic College. Importantly, those students who must attend school will not be receiving direct instruction, rather they will be supervised by a small number of teachers and will be engaged in the same independent coursework as the students learning offsite.

If you believe your family is unable to facilitate Independent Remote Learning on your Year 8 child on the designated days of Monday 1st August – Friday 5th August 2022 for specific reasons, please use the link provided ([Yr8 Student Supervision Register Form](#)) to register your child by **5.30pm on Friday 29 July 2022** to enable us to plan appropriate supervision and support. A member of staff will contact each family seeking supervision to discuss your specific needs.

Classes and/or previously planned alternative programs will continue to operate for all other year levels as planned on this day.

We thank you for your continued support as we navigate these uncertain times. Please do not hesitate to make contact with the College via telephone on 9301 2777 should you have any questions or wish to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,
Mr Chris Caldow
Principal