



27 January 2021

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Emmaus College for the 2021 school year, and a special welcome to parents whose first child is starting at the College this year. We are confident that the learning journey at Emmaus will be a rewarding and enriching experience for your child and your family, as part of our Emmaus community.

We have an exemplary team of leaders caring for your children's wellbeing at Emmaus. Mrs Amy Long is our Director of Students and supports me in leading our team of House Leaders. At Year 7, you and your child will come to know our Middle Years House Leaders first: Ms Katherine Patmore (Chavoin), Mrs Wendy Wyngaard (Colin), Ms Jane Willison (More) and Ms Jenni Monaghan (Rice). Ms Hayley Fraser leads our talented Y9@E team at Burwood, ensuring excellent pastoral care for our Year 9 students. From Year 10, our students are in Senior Houses, led by: Mrs Trish Shaw (Chavoin), Ms Ann Hyland (Colin), Mrs Alyssa Clarke (More) and Mr Stephen Willis (Rice). Also in each House, we have dedicated Pastoral Teachers who meet with your child every morning with the explicit aim of ensuring that each child feels that they are welcome and belong in our community. We aim to start every day on a positive note.

As our year starts, we begin our 3-way partnership with you and your child in their education. This partnership is fundamental to the success of all students. We are all members of this partnership, and we each have a significant contribution to make:

- **Our purpose and meaning** as a school is to support your child's learning. **Our goal** is that each student makes at least one-year's progress in their learning, every year. **We commit** to providing many opportunities and ways for you to be well informed about and effectively engage with your child's learning.
- We expect all students to come to school fully prepared to engage positively and effectively in all learning opportunities and experiences; in the classroom and beyond. All students are expected to have all necessary resources.
- We expect parents to actively engage in the learning of their child, and to effectively and promptly communicate any information, questions or concerns about their child's learning. As the first point of contact, we encourage you to telephone or email your child's Pastoral Teacher or House Leader. You are welcome to make appointments to come in to speak with appropriate staff.

COLLEGE EXPECTATIONS

The College has high expectations of our students, and our most fundamental expectations are to do with:

- **respect for everyone in our College community**
- **student attendance and parent communication**
- **students consistently trying their hardest, to achieve their personal best**
- **student presentation and uniform**

Respectful learning relationships are the key to helping students achieve their best and are most effective when students, parents and teachers form open, respectful and supportive partnerships.

As parents, you expect this and other values to be taught and lived by all at the College. So do we. We expect all students to show respect for each other and respect for staff in all that they do. No student will be allowed to disrupt the learning of others. We appreciate your continued support as we keep respect at the forefront of all community members' relationships, decisions and actions.

In the first few days, your child will receive information at an assembly which clearly explains how our College is a safe space for all people. In a future newsletter, I will write to the College Community to clearly detail our Bullying, Harassment, Discrimination policies and practices, and we will have information about resources which young people and parents can access for advice. Please contact either Pastoral Teacher or House Leader if and when concerns arise. Policies can be found on the College website.

A key purpose of this letter is to bring to your attention various matters and events to assist you and your family with the start of the school year.

The school year begins on Friday 29 January at 8.35am for all Year 7 students. As you can appreciate, there will be a significant volume of traffic into the College on this day so please allow plenty of time to ensure a prompt start on this morning. Staff and students will be present to assist with directions. On arrival, please make your way to the Tony Frizza Stadium. You and your children are joining the Emmaus community and therefore we warmly invite you to remain with your child, if possible, in the stadium for the official welcome and introductions. After the Year 7 students move to their pastoral rooms, you are most welcome to remain for refreshments and enjoy a cuppa with other parents who are also sharing the experience of seeing their child start secondary school. Students will be dismissed at 3.15pm and normal charter buses will run.

Students will receive a light morning tea and lunch as part of their welcome to the College.

In order to make the start of the school year as smooth as possible, could you please assist us in ensuring that your child is correctly attired with the school uniform and that your child's hair is appropriate with no extremes permitted (as judged by our College Principal) in terms of style (dreadlocks, mohawks etc.) and colour (no two toned under cuts, significant areas of contrasting colour etc.). Cuts of number 2 or above are permissible. Hair below shoulder length must be tied back.

We advise students to bring their materials to school over a couple of days to avoid being overburdened with a heavy load. Computers will be needed from the first day, as well as a small stationery supply and a binder (exercise) book. The remainder of materials can be brought over the following days. All Year 7 students will be receiving locks for their lockers so their belongings can be safely stored. Year 10 Peer Support students will be present on the 30th January to assist families and students in any way possible.

Electronic equipment (mobile phones, personal devices etc.) are not allowed to be used during school hours (8.35am - 3.15pm). Use during school hours will lead to confiscation of the equipment for the day with an appropriate consequence. If students have them in their possession to and from school, they need to ensure their safe and secure storage in their lockers upon arrival at the College. Emmaus can take no responsibility for the loss of equipment that is not appropriately stored. It is essential that passwords and lock combinations are not shared with any other students.

Learning from our experiences last year and the effectiveness of technology for communication, we will not be making announcements over the PA system calling students to Student Services. PA announcements will be reserved for emergency matters or information of utmost importance. Instead, students will be messaged via Teams or email during breaks so as to not interrupt their learning. Please note that we won't be calling students to collect materials left for them at Student Services or to convey other parent messages. It remains College policy that students not use their mobile phones during class time (or at all during the school day for Years 7 to 9).

We ask all students to come to school in full summer uniform from day one. House Leaders will outline uniform expectations with students, and again with you at the Year 7 Parent Meeting on Monday evening.

Students are asked to bring a face mask to school and to carry it with them at all times. Masks may not be required to be worn all day, however it is necessary for students to have one with them throughout the day.

Please note that all parents attending the college on Friday 29 January **must** wear a mask whilst inside.

All students are strongly encouraged to wear a College hat when outdoors during Terms 1 and 4 to comply with the College Sun Smart policy but, most importantly, for their own physical wellbeing. College hats can be purchased for \$14.95 from the cashier's office.

Please read and discuss Emmaus College expectations with your child over the coming days. These expectations are fully outlined on the College website.

We all look forward to seeing you on Friday 29 January for the start of your child's journey through secondary education at Emmaus College. All parents will have the opportunity to learn more, together with the chance to meet your child's House Leader and Pastoral Teacher at the Year 7 Parents' Meeting on Monday 1 February starting at 7.00pm in the Tony Frizza Stadium. While we look forward to seeing all parents on Monday evening, it is an adult only event therefore students are not required to attend.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Bourbon', with a stylized, cursive style.

Stephen Bourbon
Assistant Principal - Students