



29 July 2022

I would like to begin by thanking you all for your support with the start of the new term. Reintroducing mask wearing as a way of reducing illness among staff and students is a positive start to Term 3. Schools who kept mask mandates last term enjoyed almost normal levels of illness and absences. We would like to see a return to normality as soon as possible. Please encourage your children to wear masks to keep themselves, their friends and their teachers well. The amount of illness around is still restricting us from functioning in the way we want to. As you can appreciate having indoor events, such as school assemblies, greatly increases the risk of illness spreading. We hope to be able to return to normal settings soon. In the meantime, your understanding is very much appreciated. We have a lot to share and celebrate this term and we look forward to your support and involvement.

#### Sports Turf Update

We have some very positive news to share with you all, and it has certainly been a long time in the making. We have finally been able to push go on the construction of our multi-purpose sports turf. As you are probably aware, our community fundraising event - Round the Vines, has raised the majority of funding for this project. Construction will begin during the Christmas break. The new turf will be constructed on the field immediately behind Rooms 9, 10 and 11. It will be a fantastic addition to our school and community. Thank you for your fundraising efforts for the last few years and to the Board for supporting and getting this project to fruition.

#### Boiler Room demolition

As you will have noticed, the old boiler room has been demolished and the area is currently being tidied up to make way for staff parking. There is a lot of machinery in use, which is of much interest to the students. Please take care when using Roberts Street to drop off and pick up your children, as there will be large vehicles coming and going from here in the next couple of weeks.

#### Vaping

Incidents of vaping by minors are on the increase across the country, and yet the dangers and effects of this activity are not well understood by parents. We have managed to engage Life Education Trust to run a 45 minute Theatre in Education presentation to Year 7/8 students entitled "Behind the Scenes" which explores themes of peer pressure, decision making and social media in influencing vaping. We would like to invite you, our parents, to attend this performance with our senior students on **18 August, 1:30-2:30 in our School Hall**. No need to book, just turn up. We see this as an opportunity to educate that vaping needs to be treated like smoking and alcohol in the health education of our students.

#### Parent involvement

Classes and syndicates are working hard to include you in your child's learning success this term. Trips, syndicate assemblies and performances are ways in which this can happen. Classes will let you know what they have planned for the term in the near future. Look out for these notices.

Keep an eye out for the community newsletter this term notifying you of the School Production and the 150<sup>TH</sup> Celebration.

Craig Nelson

Principal