



14 September 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I write to update you on financial decisions made by the Federation College Council at our Term 3 meeting on 1 September.

On behalf of the College Council, I trust that everyone is safe and well during the current challenging Stage 4 lockdown restrictions.

At its Term 3 meeting, the College Council acknowledged that teaching staff are working above and beyond to ensure continuity of learning for students. The wellbeing needs of both staff and students have also been a priority during this unprecedented time.

Feedback has demonstrated that in this second phase, staff and students are more attuned to the demands of remote learning. The benefits of parent and school partnerships that have emerged are important and need to be preserved moving forward.

The College Council is also aware of the financial stress families are enduring due to COVID-19 and the impact restrictions are having on the economy. As indicated in previous communications from the College this year, there is support available for families who meet our financial assistance assessment criteria. Families experiencing genuine financial distress due to a loss of employment, reduced hours or business closure have been asked to contact our Finance Department to discuss fee rebates. These enquiries will be managed confidentially and sensitively.

The largest expense of a school is staff wages. It is anticipated that these will rise with the negotiation of a new agreement due in 2021. I ask that families who can afford to do so, support the school, other families, and the community by continuing to pay school fees in the regular cycle.

In recognition of the financial hardship that many in our community are currently experiencing, the College Council and Principals agreed **not to raise school fees in 2021**. This decision is taken in consideration of the outstanding effort that the majority of families are making by contributing regular payments towards the cost of their child's education.

Once again, thank you for all of your support and encouragement throughout this year. The community of Catholic Regional College Melton has demonstrated collegiality, tolerance and compliance, which has contributed significantly to our successful Distance Learning Model.

Take care these holidays.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Jorgensen".

Marlene Jorgensen
Principal