



**Penola**  
CATHOLIC COLLEGE  
EST. 1995

27 August 2020

Dear Members of Penola Catholic College

On behalf of the College Board we trust that everyone is safe and well during the current challenging Stage 4 lockdown restrictions. The Board met recently, and understandably, one of the key points of discussion was the impact that COVID-19 is having on our school and its community.

The Board would again like to acknowledge that our teaching staff are doing an outstanding job ensuring the continuity of learning for our students, and importantly also assisting with their wellbeing. Feedback has clearly demonstrated that in this second phase, staff and students are now more attuned to the demands of Remote Learning.

The College Board is also aware that many families are enduring financial stress as a direct result of COVID-19 and the impact that the restrictions are having on the economy. As has been indicated in previous communications from the Board 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 via [schoolfees@penola.vic.edu.au](mailto:schoolfees@penola.vic.edu.au). This still applies, and these enquiries will be managed confidentially and sensitively.

We also ask that families who can afford to do so support the school, other families, and the community by continuing to pay their school fees.

A very small number of families have requested that the school give consideration to a fee rebate due to Remote Learning. This was discussed at length by the Board, with the following outcomes:

1. A once in a century pandemic and any potential impacts were not contemplated when the 2020 Penola budget was approved by the Board.
2. As a Catholic community, the Board is committed to meeting the needs of families in our school that are currently experiencing genuine financial hardship.
3. While there have been some savings in specific areas so far in 2020, there have also been a number of increased expenses and loss of income through no Performing Arts or College facility hire on weekends and some parents inability to pay all their school fees.
4. The salaries for all teaching and non-teaching staff remain a committed fixed cost as do other items such as loan repayments, insurance etc.
5. The Board is committed to ensuring that the school finishes the year maintaining the necessary financial prudence to ensure the ongoing viability of the College, with appropriate support provided to our families experiencing genuine hardship. Due to the fast moving and unpredictable nature of COVID-19, there is a great deal that can still happen between now and the end of the year.

In acknowledgement of the current situation the College Board will also be working to ensure that fee increases for all year levels in 2021 are minimal.

It has been a tough year for all Victorians, but as people of faithful hope, we know that this pandemic and its associated impacts will end. We thank you for your partnership in adapting to the current challenges we all face and ask that you continue to support our school community, especially those who have been significantly impacted by COVID-19 during these challenging times.

Yours sincerely

Chris Caldwell  
**Principal**

Jennifer Vinten  
**Business Manager**

T +61 3 9301 2777  
F +61 3 9301 2770  
E [principal@penola.vic.edu.au](mailto:principal@penola.vic.edu.au)

Po Box 637, Glenroy,  
Victoria, Australia, 3046

**Junior Campus (Years 7-8)**  
35 William Street,  
Glenroy, Victoria,  
Australia, 3046

**Senior Campus (Years 9-12)**  
29 Gibson Street,  
Broadmeadows, Victoria,  
Australia, 3047

ABN 43 067 599 054

[www.penola.vic.edu.au](http://www.penola.vic.edu.au)