



17 December 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Thank you, College updates and key dates for the start of 2021

As we come to the close of the 2020 school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for ongoing support of the College in what has been a very difficult year for all. Your commitment to a Catholic education for your child and your ongoing support of their learning is certainly a gift they will look back on in years to come and appreciate. As we now approach Christmas, it is time to be thankful and grateful for the blessings that this season of joy brings.

While reports have been sent home for students in Years 7 to 10 and I am sure these will stimulate much discussion, there are also a number of important updates with regards to Learning and Wellbeing that will impact your child's learning at the College for 2021.

Wellbeing and Houses

The move to a vertical house structure will begin in 2021. This means that the current 'Stage Coordinators' will be replaced by 'House Coordinators'. In 2021 there will be 4 members of staff in these positions. The House Coordinators will be an important point of contact for students and families. They will be responsible for matters concerning wellbeing, attendance, uniform & grooming and other areas of support for students, as well as running pastoral and development events. The Parent Information evenings at the beginning of 2021 will provide an opportunity for you to meet the House Coordinators and receive further information about the role they will play during your child's journey at Delany College.

Learning - Class Structures in Stages 4 and 5

A number of important initiatives to meet learners at their point of need will be implemented in 2021. These include:

- Undertaking components of the Certificate II in Foundations course in Years 7 and students studying MIE in Year 9 to be awarded statements of attainment within the Australian Vocational Education Framework;
- Specialised Literacy and Numeracy lessons targeted at students' level of development;
- Pastoral Development lessons designed to support development of skills to support learning and socio-emotional development at age appropriate levels;
- Stage 4 - students in Years 7 and 8 will be grouped into 'core classes' for English, HSIE and Religious Education that enables students to work at their 'stage of development';
- Stage 5 - from Term 2, students in years 9 and 10 will be invited, based on criteria and performance, to participate in the Delany College 'Rigorous Learning' program, allowing students to deepen their learning in English, History/Geography, Religious Education and PDHPE as well as providing a pathway for accelerated learning in

Mathematics. Students involved in this program will continue to study their electives, Literacy and Numeracy and other pastoral programs with the rest of the students in Stage 5.

Bell Times

To facilitate some of the new learning initiatives for 2021, there will be a change to bell times. School start and finish times will remain the same Tuesday to Friday. Monday start times for students will move to 9:45am. However, supervision will be provided at the College on Mondays from 8:45am, as is currently the case. On Mondays, students will go straight to lesson 1 with no mentor class that day. As is the case now, it is critical that students arrive on time and ready for class each day.

	Start Time	Finish Time
Monday	9:45am	3:05pm
Tuesday to Friday	8:45am	3:05pm

Devices - Laptops/Tablets and Mobile Phones

As you are aware, Delany College has a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy for computing devices. As a condition of enrolment, students are required to bring a laptop or tablet (iPad or similar device) to allow them to access learning materials provided by the College. The responsibility for day to day maintenance, charging and overall care of the device rests with the student. It is important that students develop good habits and come with their device fully charged, ready for learning each day. The device complements the other equipment (e.g. pen and exercise books, calculators) that students are required to have for each lesson.

Mobile phones are not a substitute for BYOD computers or tablets and are **NOT** allowed to be used by students during the school day. As introduced this year, students will be asked to hand over their phone if it is seen during the school day. It will be returned to the student at the end of the day, or where there are repeated infringements, it will need to be collected by parents/guardians.

If you need to contact your child during the school day as a matter of urgency, please contact the College Administration Office and arrangements will be made to ensure the appropriate communication can be made.

In cases where for financial or other similar reasons your child is unable to bring a device for learning, please contact their House Coordinator. The College has several devices to lend to students on a daily basis.

Booklists and Stationery Requirements

Students will be advised of any special stationery requirements by their subject teachers at the beginning of classes in 2021. Generally, students will require an exercise book for each subject as they are required to complete theory components and exercises in writing notwithstanding they have a BYOD device.

Each student is required to have a scientific calculator for Mathematics - the Casio FX 82 is the recommended calculator.

For students in Years 7 to 10, texts and resources are provided by the College or via Google Classroom as required. Classwork is set and monitored on Google Classroom.

For students in Years 11 and 12 required texts need to be purchased through 'Box of Books'. Texts can be acquired in either digital or hard copy format - details are attached on a separate page to assist with this process.

Uniform and Grooming

We appreciate that 2020 has been a difficult year for many families and we have endeavoured to support students this year who have had difficulties with uniform and grooming. We have worked with our uniform suppliers to ensure that the College uniform is as practical and as affordable as possible. Again, if you face genuine difficulties in accessing the uniform, please contact your child's House Coordinator so they can organise assistance.

Changes to the uniform for 2021:

College Blazer: Optional for student in Years 7 to 9. Students may wear the College's sports jacket (soft shell jacket) in lieu of the blazer.
Compulsory for students in Years 10 to 12. Students may wear the sports jacket on Thursday sport only.

Girls' Uniform: The option for girls to wear grey trousers is available from the beginning of 2021. These are available from the uniform shop and are the only permissible option.

I remind parents of the grooming policy outlined on the College Website and in the parent handbook. The expectations in relation to hair, piercings and presentation are clear. Your support is required. Students should not leave home in the incorrect uniform or not meeting the standards expected. Sports uniform can be worn to and from school on Thursdays only. Any exceptions will be communicated to you by the Skoolbag app or by direct email/sms.

Key Dates for 2021

Key dates for the start of 2021 and throughout the year have been enclosed as a separate document. Can you please put these in a prominent place and note them in your calendars. The parent information evenings are very important sessions as we discuss setting up your sons and daughters for success throughout the year.

Finally, I wish you and your families all the best for the Christmas season. Thank you again for your support of the College. Please have a safe and relaxing holiday.

God Bless,



Paul Easton
Principal

Ordering 2021 senior student textbooks with Box of Books

Delany College is pleased to announce our engagement with Box of Books for the provision of digital and physical education resources for the 2021 school year. Please see the video below on how Box of Books works and how we will continue to work together to support your student's ongoing educational needs.

[Box of Books - Service Overview](#)

Some families may already have the school prescribed texts in hard copy, either through siblings who have completed the subject in an earlier year, or through the purchase of the text separately to Box of Books. Where this is the case you may still choose to have your student provisioned for the digital version of the text on Box of Books and this can be purchased for a discounted cost.

Box of Books looks forward to supporting your students' learning through their world leading digital platform and 100% COVID safe delivery service for texts and physical resources for school families.

Steps to order:

1. Visit <https://shop.boxofbooks.com.au> to create your parent/guardian account
2. Add each student, nominating their school and year group
3. Select the items you wish to purchase from the booklist shown
4. Use the checkout to organise postage direct to your nominated address and payment

For further assistance, please see this short informative guide on [How to Purchase Books](#) or contact the Box of Books team through the in-app support function.

If you face genuine difficulties in accessing the required textbooks, please contact your child's House Coordinator so they can organise assistance.

The image shows two screenshots from the Box of Books app. The left screenshot is a sign-in screen with the heading "Let's sign in to your account!". It instructs users to enter their mobile number and provides a "SEND CODE" button. The right screenshot is a welcome message titled "Welcome to the Box of Books shop!". It lists three steps for purchasing booklists: 1. Create an account, 2. Add students, and 3. Select items. It also includes a link for in-app support and payment logos for Visa, Mastercard, Stripe, and Secure Checkout.

Key Dates for 2021

Term Dates:	Term 1: Thursday, 28 January to Thursday, 01 April Term 2: Monday, 19 April to Friday, 25 June Term 3: Monday, 12 July to Friday, 17 September Term 4: Tuesday, 05 October to Friday, 17 December
College Office opening days:	Thursday, 21 January 9am to 3pm Wednesday, 27 January 8:15am to 3:30pm
Uniform Shop Opening days:	Wednesday, 20 January 9am to 12pm Thursday, 21 January 9am to 12pm Wednesday, 27 January 9am to 2pm Thursday, 28 January 8am to 2pm
Student Return Dates:	Thursday, 28 January Years 7, 11 & 12 Friday, 29 January Years 8, 9 & 10
Parent Information Evenings:	Tuesday, 9 February via Zoom Years 7 & 8 Wednesday, 10 February via Zoom Years 9, 10, 11 & 12
Pupil Free Days:	Term 1: Friday, 26 February Term 3: Monday, 9 August and Friday, 17 September Term 4: Wednesday, 15 and Thursday, 16 December
Parent/Teacher Interviews:	Tuesday, 16 February via Zoom Year 12 Monday, 21 and Tuesday, 22 June via Zoom Year 7 to 10 Monday, 13 and Tuesday, 14 December Report Consultation Meetings Year 7 to 10