

29 January 2023

Principal's Message – Welcome to Term 1, 2023

As-Salaamu Alaykum & Greetings

Dear Parents and Carers,

I pray this message finds our families in the best of health and wellbeing.

I'm really looking forward to having all our students back on campus tomorrow (Monday 30 January 2023) after the long summer break insha Allah.

A warm welcome to all our new families and students. You have joined a College that is 100% committed to providing the best education, care and environment for your child.

This letter contains several **key messages** for our families and students, and **important dates** for the start of the school year. Please read carefully.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

First Day of School (Years F-12)

School commences for all students on **Monday, 30 January 2023** from **8:40 am – 3:30 pm**.

Foundation (Prep) students attend from **9:00 am to 12:00 pm** for Week 1 only (Monday – Friday) and for four full days per week in Weeks 2, 3 and 4. There is **no school for Foundation students** on:

- 1.) **Wednesday, 8 February 2023,**
- 2.) **Thursday, 16 February 2023,**
- 3.) **Wednesday, 22 February 2023.**

There is **no staff supervision before 8:20 am or after 4:15 pm** Monday to Friday. *The College **does not** take responsibility for students who are dropped off before or picked up after these times.*

Our College currently consists of four (4) major buildings:

- **A-block (Years F-2)** classrooms are behind our front office / admin offices;
- **B-block (Years 3-6)** to the right of the A-block (front view);
- **C-block (Years 10-12)** to the right of the B-block (front view);
- **D-block (Years 7-9)** directly behind the C-block (front view).

On Day 1, there will be plenty of **signage** to direct you / your children to the correct building, as well as **staff members** who will be seated at **Help Desks** with the Form Class Lists, as well as staff stationed in various locations, and pin boards with Form Class information to direct students / parents to the correct Form Class and classroom location. **Please be at class by 8:40 am sharp (except Foundation/Prep).**

A **Whole School Assembly (Years 3-12 only)** will occur on the first day, **Monday 30 January 2023**, commencing at **9:00 am sharp**, in the **College gym**. Parents / carers are very welcome to attend.

Book Packs (Years F-6) – a small number of parents have not paid for their child's Book Pack. Several reminders were sent out to parents via email, phone call and SMS. **Please be aware that your child will not receive any learning materials until these are paid for in full.** This will put your child in an uncomfortable situation, as all other students will receive their materials in their first Form Class. **Please avoid this and organise payment through our front office before school starts in the morning.**

Compass is Compulsory for Parents & Students.

In 2023, the following can be accessed through Compass:

- Details of your child's **daily lessons** (for Periods 1-6) for all subjects.
- Daily **homework** and any upcoming **assessments**.
- **Excursions & Camps** – access information, give parental consent and make payment.
- **Academic Progress Reports** – access to your child's Semester 1 and Semester 2 Reports.
- **Canteen** - pre-order and pay for your child's lunch orders.
- **Late arrival** – students use their Compass cards to swipe in when late.
- Receive **important notifications and updates**.

***Instructions** on how to sign up for a **Compass Account**, how to add money to your child's Compass Card, and how to pre-order and pay for your child's lunch order from the Canteen is available on our **College website**. **This information will also be emailed to parents/carers during Week 1, so please keep an eye out for this.** *All students in Years F-12 will be issued with a **new Compass card** every year in Term 1. **A replacement fee of \$15 is required for all lost Compass cards.**

College Uniform Policy – a friendly reminder to please ensure your child wears the **correct school uniform** from **Day 1**. Our leadership team, coordinators and Form Class Teachers will be closely following up on students' uniform compliance. Remember, our uniform shop will be open **daily** until **February 2023**, after which it will revert back to its normal hours on Fridays only.

As **Mt Hira College school bags** are now **compulsory**, **please ensure your child's school bag is labelled**, so it does not get mixed up with someone else's school bag!!

Mobile Phone Policy – a friendly reminder that students are **not allowed to use or have mobile phones outside their lockers** between **8:30 am – 3:30 pm** daily. If mobile phones are seen in students' possession during these times, they will be immediately **confiscated**. Refer to our Policy on the College website.

NEW INITIATIVES & PROGRAMS IN 2023:

New Middle School Building (Years 7, 8, 9) – tireless efforts have gone into ensuring our new Middle School Building (D-block) will be open for Day 1 of school for our Years 7-9 students insha Allah. After a tremendous amount of work has gone on through weekends and public holidays, the building is on track to open to students this Monday 30 January 2023.

New Subject – Food Technology (Years 7, 8, 9) – we are continually looking for ways to enhance our educational and extra-curricular programs. In 2021, we were blessed to be able to introduce alternative VCE pathways for our students and to offer VET Hospitality and VET Business courses.

These subjects are very popular with our students and have been very successful. In 2023, we are introducing Food Technology as a core subject for our Years 7 & 8 students and as an elective subject for our Year 9 students.

Major Upgrades to our VET Hospitality (Years 11 & 12) / Food Technology (Years 7-9) Room – the wheels are in motion for major upgrades to take place in our VET Hospitality / Food Technology room during Term 1. This upgrade will entail a complete makeover of all the cabinetry, the installation of 12 ovens, cook tops at each station, a commercial fridge and freezer, and café style seating just to mention a few upgrades.

Excursions and Incursions – we are committed to ensuring our students have ample opportunities to enrich their learning outside the classroom through extra-curricular activities such as excursions and incursions. Our team are currently finalising a whole school excursion / incursion plan for 2023 to ensure that **all classes** from **Foundation to Year 12** get a fair and reasonable number of high-quality excursions and incursions throughout the year.

New VCE Building (Stage 2) – last term our grant application for funding to contribute towards building a state-of-the-art VCE Centre (Stage 2) was approved alhamdulillah. This project is due for completion in late 2024 insha Allah.

Parent Teacher Association (PTA) – Parents/carers undertake valuable work by promoting the welfare of and supporting the College and its community. I believe strong and positive relationships between the College and its families demonstrate to our students that everyone is working together in their best interest.

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) enables parents to:

- Connect with each other
- Provide their views on College's policies
- Participate in discussions, plans and activities for school events (e.g. graduation and awards ceremonies, secondhand book and uniform schemes, BBQs, fundraisers and school fetes, etc.)
- Raise funds for the school for the purchase of equipment, resources, etc. for students' benefit)

I'm very pleased to announce the introduction of a PTA at Mt Hira College in 2023. Information on how to become a member of the PTA and how to run for a position on the PTA committee will be sent to parents/carers soon.

KEY DATES IN TERM 1, 2023:

EVENT	DESCRIPTION	DATE, TIME & LOCATION
Compass Help Session for <u>All</u> Parents/Carers	In this session parents/carers will be provided face to face one-to-one assistance, so they can set up their Compass accounts and learn how to use all the relevant Compass functions.	Monday, 13 February 2023 @ 6:30 pm in the Gym
Information Evening for New Parents (Years 7-12)	All new high school (7-12) parents/carers will have the opportunity to meet our high school leadership team and teachers who will share information about our: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum Overview – subjects, time allocations, etc. 	Monday, 13 February 2023 @ 5:00 pm in the Gym

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessments / Testing • Homework Expectations • NAPLAN • Behaviour Expectations • Wellbeing Support Services • Extra-Curricular Activities (Camps, Building Bridges, Debating, Excursions, Wellbeing Programs, etc.) • Parent/Carers Volunteering Opportunities • Important Contacts • Questions & Answers 	
Meet the Teachers Evening (Years F-6)	<p>Junior School parents/carers will have the opportunity to visit their child's classroom and formally meet their child's teacher, who will cover the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • About the Teacher • Class Schedule / Routine • Resources / Learning Materials • Extra-Curricular Activities (Swimming Program, Excursions, Camps, Wellbeing Programs, etc.) • Ways to Volunteer • Homework Expectations • Contact Information • Questions & Answers 	<p>Tuesday, 14 February 2023 @ 5:00 pm (assemble in A-block / JS Corridor, then visit individual classes)</p>
PTA First Meeting	<p>The first Parent-Teacher Association meeting for 2023.</p>	<p>Friday, 24 February 2023 @ 2:00 om in the main staffroom</p>

I'm feeling very positive that 2023 will be a great and blessed year for the College and for the entire College community.

I thank each and every family for their ongoing commitment and support.

I look forward to seeing you all tomorrow insha Allah.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the College on 9709 0100.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Toni Pikos-Sallie
College Principal