

23 January 2024

## Principal's Message – Welcome to Term 1, 2024

As-Salaamu Alaykum & Greetings

Dear Parents and Carers,

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

I look forward to having all our students back on campus next **Monday, 29 January 2024** after the long summer break insha Allah.

A very 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.

### Key Messages

**School commences** for all students on **Monday, 29 January 2024** from **8:40 am – 3:30 pm**.

**Foundation students** attend school 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 (a separate letter has been sent about this).

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.* However, an after-school care service is available onsite via **Extend**. You can find out more about this service and how to register here - <https://www.mthira.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/ASC.pdf>

Our College currently consists of four (4) major buildings (A, B, C & D Blocks):

- **A-Block (Years F-1)** classrooms are behind our front office / admin offices;
- **Outside portables (Year 2)** opposite the Years F-1 playground;
- **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 and/or your children to the correct building, as well as **staff members** who will be at **Help Desks** with the Class Lists, as well as staff stationed in various locations, and pin boards with Form Class information to assist students and parents to find the correct Form Class and classroom location. **Students should be at their Form classroom by 8:40 am sharp** (except for Foundation students).

A **Whole School Assembly (Years 3-12 only)** will occur on the first day, **Monday 29 January 2024**, commencing at **9:00 am sharp**, in the **College gym**. Parents / carers are very welcome to attend.

**Books and Stationery (Years F-12)** – parents are responsible for purchasing all their child's books and stationery through Champion (or elsewhere). Please ensure these are purchased and labelled with your child's name prior to their first day of school. Students in Years F-6 should bring all their items to class on Day 1 and their teachers will advise what items will be stored in the classroom throughout the year and what items will remain with the student.

### **Compass is Compulsory for Parents & Students.**

The following information / services are 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 at the Front Office when late.
- **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**. \*All students in Years F-12 are issued a **Compass card** for free. **A replacement fee of \$15 is required for all lost Compass cards.**

**College Uniform Policy** – please ensure your child wears the **correct school uniform** from **Day 1**, including **proper haircuts and a neat clean appearance** as per **pages 2-3 of our Uniform Policy**. Our leadership team, coordinators and Form Class Teachers will be strictly following up on students' uniform compliance. Remember, our uniform shop will be open **daily** until **9 February 2024**, after which it will revert to its normal hours on Fridays only.

**School Uniform Policy here** - [Mt-Hira-College-Uniform-Policy-2022.pdf \(mthira.vic.edu.au\)](https://mthira.vic.edu.au/Mt-Hira-College-Uniform-Policy-2022.pdf)

**Mt Hira College school bags are 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** – 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**. Please refer to our Policy on the College website.

**Middle School** students **cannot access the D-Block via the front entrance** (entry opposite the C-Block) and must enter via the Synthetic Courts entry or the far end entry, as cement works are currently taking place in this area.



## KEY DATES IN TERM 1, 2024:

| EVENT  | DESCRIPTION  | DATE, TIME & LOCATION  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Compass Help Session (open to all Parents/Carers)</b>   | 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.   | <b>Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024 @ 5:00 pm in the Gym</b>  |
| <b>Information Evening for Parents/Carers (Years 7-12)</b> | High school (7-12) parents/carers will have the opportunity to meet our high school leadership team and Domain Leaders who will share information about our: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Curriculum – subjects, time allocations, etc.</li><li>• Assessments / Testing</li><li>• Homework Expectations</li><li>• NAPLAN</li><li>• Behaviour Expectations</li><li>• Wellbeing Support Services</li><li>• Extra-Curricular Activities (Camps, Interfaith Programs, Debating, Excursions, Cyber Safety Programs, etc.)</li><li>• Important Contacts</li><li>• Questions &amp; Answers</li></ul> | <b>Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024 @ 5:45 pm in the Gym</b>  |
| <b>Meet the Teachers Evening (Years F-6)</b>               | 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome</li><li>• About the Teacher</li><li>• Class Schedule / Routine</li><li>• Resources / Learning Materials</li><li>• Extra-Curricular Activities (Swimming Program, Excursions, Camps, Wellbeing Programs, etc.)</li><li>• Ways to Volunteer</li><li>• Homework Expectations</li><li>• Contact Information</li><li>• Questions &amp; Answers</li></ul>                                       | <b>Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024 @ 5:00 pm (Parents/Carers to assemble in A-block (F-1 JS Corridor), after the intro will visit individual classes)</b> |

I pray that 2024 will be a great and blessed year for the College and for the entire College community.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and support.

I look forward to seeing you all soon insha Allah.

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

Yours sincerely,



Dr Toni Pikos-Sallie  
**College Principal**