



# FUTURE STUDENTS

AUG 2020

## Principal's Welcome

The famous scientist and inventor Benjamin Franklin said, "Out of adversity comes opportunity." 2020 with the challenge of COVID-19 has certainly been a year to test the truth of that statement made so long ago. I am proud to say that Mercedes College has been a strong, resilient community during this time. We have embraced the challenge and chosen to do things differently to accommodate the current context.

You will read about our approach to online learning providing all students with the opportunity to see their teachers through the use of Microsoft TEAMS and to have all questions answered either verbally or through the online 'chat' mechanism. Students had a scheduled day as they would normally have at school but also had some flexibility to work at their own pace. Everyone's technology skills increased at this time.

During restrictions students missed many of their co-curricular activities but we responded as a school by providing different ways to interact. The article about MC Lunchtime Live is an example of such an initiative. When students were able to be back onsite, we introduced Year 7 House Friday Fun Challenge. You can read how this reconnected our Year 7 students giving them a weekly activity to look forward to.

Enjoy reading about how our College adapted during this period of change. As life becomes more 'normal' College activities have resumed and Semester 2 will be filled with exciting learning and social opportunities.

**Mrs Kerrie Fraser**  
Principal



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COVID-19  
SUMMARY

LUNCHTIME  
LIVE

STEM

HOUSE FRIDAY  
FUN DAY

THE ARTS

## COVID-19 Summary

The approach to the end of Term One was a very different learning journey to the one the College started in February this year. We began with all our usual events and lessons, and as we worked through the term, we could see the landscape changing daily. Along the way we adapted, reviewed, and exercised flexibility in response to government directives to deal with the astonishing impact of COVID-19 in our global community.

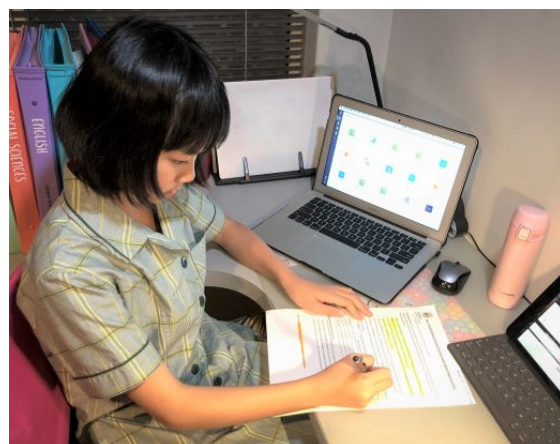
The core business of teaching and learning required Mercedes College teachers to shift from the preferred face to face delivery to the online approach. While previously online tasks were supplementary to our teaching practice, they quickly became the central focus. With the help of Director of Learning Technologies, Mr Paul Reid and key staff members who are nimble in the online space, the College was able to devise programs for students to follow in a reasonably seamless fashion. Staff either worked at home or onsite at the College, worked in the platform Teams and upgraded their knowledge of SEQTA.

Gaps in delivery in the online space and departments were identified and staff worked together to ensure a consistent and sustainable approach to learning over the coming weeks. The end of Term One saw teachers working hard to prepare programs of work for students and upskilling quickly so they can be as strong a presence online as they are in the classroom. Term Two commenced in a very different way setting clear expectations for teachers and students recording of attendance and interaction and strong engagement.

Mrs Kerrie Fraser, the Principal of Mercedes College said the support from the Community was very positive.

*"We undertook a survey with families and carers.*

*"The results were very encouraging with many messages of thanks as teachers and staff worked through this very challenging time".*





Here are a couple of examples of messages from parents:

*It has been really encouraging seeing the way my daughter has settled into the new routine this week. Each of her teachers has approached teaching slightly differently (some offering drop-in sessions, some online for the whole class) but I think that has made it more engaging for her. She is really surprised at how quickly she was able to complete set tasks...*

*Many thanks for your outstanding efforts to get the girls to an online learning environment so quickly. My daughter feels most benefit from classes where the teacher teaches via visual or audio means and is available throughout the lesson to answer questions. All teachers have been excellent at keeping the girls focused.*

## MC Lunchtime Live

When restrictions were lifted in mid-May the school learning returned to normal. However, with so many co-curricular activities cancelled some innovative new programs were launched.

The Media Department created a new opportunity for students to develop their creativity and boost their production skills with the launch of the 'MC Lunchtime Live' on June 11. This 6-week live TV production hosted by two students sees a mixture of content with pre-recorded segments including staff interviews, performances, highlights of key events and some content that is just for fun.... School Bus Karaoke anyone?

Another innovative event being created with the help of the Media Department, is the Young Mercies new online Fashion for Compassion – a major fundraising event which usually attracts an audience of 200 people. This pre-recorded student fashion parade will be promoted to families early in Term 3 to encourage them to purchase tickets to view this online event with the opportunity to help fundraise for MercyWorks.

These and other activities have offered students and teachers a ray of sunshine and a boost of creativity after being faced with so many challenges throughout the year.



## House Friday Fun Day

Due to the cancellation of many activities in the first semester, a House activity was implemented for our Year 7s. The Friday Fun Day saw students in each House compete in a number of physical and academic challenges including matching teachers names to their heights, a locker code relay race, solving riddles, building a marshmallow tower and competing to see who could create the longest word.



## STEM Challenges

Year 7 students were kept on their toes whilst in isolation after been given a STEM challenge which continued throughout Term 2. The course provided students with the opportunity to apply content to real world problems in order, to further develop important skills.

At the end of Term 2 classes were rotated through a range of activities including testing the board games they created at home during Covid-19, with the aim of educating people about all things to do with the Coronavirus. Head gear students had created was tested out to see what the results might be after a high impact incident, while students also had fun presenting their ideas 'to keep pets happy,' such as toys, treats and collars.



## The Arts

Since returning to school there has been lots of interesting and fun learning happening across all areas of The Arts.

In Drama our Year 9 students completed their Commedia dell'arte performances. Students studied this form of theatre, made their own masks, and performed their own scenarios using the stock commedia characters. The performances were hilariously funny! All the actors worked extremely hard on the correct characterisation and movement for each character.

Our Year 8 Design class have been prototyping laser cut initial pendants this Semester. After honing their digital skills in this project, they moved onto laser cut cuckoo clocks. To see the results, make sure you check out the Mercedes Facebook page to see their final projects!

The Year 7 Music students used an application called GarageBand to record a backing track to their favourite pop song. When they completed the exercise, they had to perform their song live to the class using the recorded track as a backing.



## Music Scholarships

In recognition of the rich musical traditions of Mercedes College, there are two scholarships available.

**The Sister of Mercy Bursary** Is open to new and current students to encourage talented students to pursue music studies at the College.

**Louise Allen-Arbuckle Music Scholarship** was established in 2014 to nurture music students with exceptional musical talent.

For more information please visit the Scholarship page on the College website.



## Parents & Friends

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Welcome! We are so excited to have you all joining the wonderful Mercedes College community.

Presently, we are preparing for the 2021 Mercedes College Fete : Celebrating 175 years of Mercy Education, and would like to invite you all to join us in making this event a huge success. There are currently several stalls that we require Stall Holders (coordinators) for – for example, the Devonshire Tea, Hot Chips, Hot Donuts, Silent Auction and Craft. If you, your family, or friends are able to assist us with any of these stalls, or support the Fete in any way, please contact us on our fete email address – [fete@mercedes.wa.edu.au](mailto:fete@mercedes.wa.edu.au)

You can also find out more information about the fete and how you and your family and friends can support it, by going to our new Fete Facebook page at this link – <https://www.facebook.com/MercedesCollegeFete2021/>

Becoming involved in the 2021 Mercedes College Fete is a great way to meet new families and make new friends. We look forward to hearing from you soon and meeting you all next year!

2021 Mercedes College Fete Committee

## Upcoming College Events

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### Open Morning, 8 September 8.30am - 1.00pm

The Open Morning is only for families who are not yet enrolled for 2022, 2023 and 2024. To register please book via the website [www.mercedes.wa.edu.au](http://www.mercedes.wa.edu.au)

## 2020 Diary Dates (Year 7, 2021 Enrolled Families)

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<b>Saturday 29 August</b>	MYAT Testing / Parent Information Session for 2021 Year 7s (Detailed information will be emailed to families by Monday 10 August)
<b>Friday 23 October</b>	Presentation Evening, 7.00pm
<b>Thursday 19 November</b>	Year 6 Orientation Day



Mercedes College