

25 March 2022



Under the Stewardship of Mary Aikenhead Ministries

Dear Parents and Carers

Updated COVID Risk Mitigation – Camps and Retreats – 30 March - 1 April 2022

We are looking forward to our three days of Camps and Retreats next Wednesday 30 March – Friday 1 April and are confident that the plans in place will provide a memorable occasion for students to strengthen connections and embrace new challenges within a safe and supportive environment. Our planning as a College, and with our venue and transport providers, has carefully considered current advice from NSW Health and the Association of Independent Schools to minimise risk of transmission of COVID-19. While every effort will be made to minimise risk the new variants of COVID are highly transmissible and transmission rates are high.

The opportunity to engage in learning that takes students outdoors offers us confidence in ventilation and social distancing; we have been able to organise for many of the day-time meals to be enjoyed outside as well. Students will be required to wear masks on buses and indoors in common residential areas where social distancing is not possible, excluding sleeping areas. The venue providers have their own Covid-safe plans. As part of St Vincent's College risk mitigation, we require the following responsibilities of students and parents/ carers:

- Parents/ carers ensure their daughter takes a rapid antigen test on the evening before camp/retreats, Tuesday 29 March, and agree to keep students at home where they test positive. Anyone who is unwell should not attend the Camp/Retreat. In addition to emailing collegesecretary@stvincents.nsw.edu.au as is usual practice for all absences, please complete this **Parent Reporting of non-attendance due to illness on Tuesday evening / Wednesday morning** if this is the case so that we may amend our details.
- Students (and staff) will wear masks on buses and in shared communal gathering spaces except when eating (not bedrooms/ ensuite bathrooms and not outside).
- Parents/ carers provide permission for staff to administer rapid antigen testing in the event of a student presenting with COVID symptoms or identified as a close contact to a student who has tested positive.
- Parents/ carers will arrange for their daughter to be collected from camp on the day she tests positive to COVID; or if requested by the College according to current government advice re close contacts.

Supervision and care measures will be put in place to ensure our duty of care and your daughter's wellbeing should she test positive on a rapid antigen test and be awaiting collection whilst isolated from peers. We do appreciate your timely response in arranging collection for your daughter who once confirmed as positive or a close contact will not be able to stay at the Camp/Retreat, or travel on the group bus.

Your receipt of this letter via the email address in our College Edumate database will assume your awareness and agreement with these responsibilities. We thank you for exercising your responsibilities in support of our community. If you have any concerns about the arrangements described herein, please don't hesitate to contact the College and ask to speak with either myself or Mrs Fry.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Elizabeth Brooks
Deputy Principal