



ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

HUNTERS HILL

From the Headmaster

27 August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Across the country and abroad, we all continue to navigate through the ongoing impact of COVID-19 and the changes that this once in a lifetime pandemic have brought upon our society. Closer to home, the College continues to ensure that the wellbeing, health and safety of your sons is at the forefront of all decisions and planning.

To the disappointment of many, on 21 August 2020, the NSW Government updated their advice to schools titled 'A guide to NSW school students for Term 3'. The guide stated "Interschool activities **must** remain within the local community or zone. This applies to all interschool sport and physical activities, curriculum activities, arts activities and extra-curricular activities organised or sponsored by the school".

Subsequently, an announcement was made by the AAGPS to suspend the AAGPS winter sport competitions whilst it sought further clarification from the NSW Chief Health Officer and NSW Health.

It gives me great pleasure to advise you that, following further consideration and clarification from these government sources of both the guidelines and definitions surrounding zones and local areas, the scheduled AAGPS winter sport competitions will now proceed. Please see the [AAGPS website](#) for further information.

Due to time constraints surrounding the organisation of previously scheduled competition and non-competition games and activities this weekend, the majority of games will take place this Saturday, 29 August, with some additional internal non-competition games.

Please note that restrictions regarding no spectators will remain in place. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd XV Rugby and 1st XI Football games will continue to be live streamed. Further information about and online access to these live streams are currently being arranged, and will be emailed to the Joeys community in the coming days.

It is worthwhile at this time to reflect on why we play sport and its importance as an extension of all we seek to achieve with our boys in the classroom. The following extract from *The Rationale for Sport at St Joseph's College* (1990) provides valuable guidance:

Sport remains an important part of the education provided at St Joseph's College. . . . In a way that is natural to exuberant youth, sport – both competitive and recreational – occupies a proportion of the time that is available to the boys after school and on weekends. In doing so, it provides the exercise necessary for good health and adolescent growth, encourages the development of skills, self-confidence . . . and promotes positive attitudes to exercise and wellbeing. As a Catholic school, the College draws inspiration for its sports philosophy principally from our Christian tradition, which prizes all activities that contribute constructively to the harmonious and complete development of the whole person – mind, body and soul.

I once again thank all of our boys for the way in which they have continued to rise to the challenges presented, and have pushed on despite the adversity that they have faced throughout 2020. I also commend and thank all of our parents, carers and the wider Joeys community for your unwavering support for our boys and our College.

We look forward to resuming our sports program, with some changes, in the coming days.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Hayes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'C'.

Dr Chris Hayes
Headmaster