



Last day of Remote Learning

What a journey this has been for students and staff. For the last 8 weeks our staff and students have stepped up and taken on the challenge of remote learning. Our teachers have been incredibly courageous and have experienced steep learning curves as they adopted new technologies. The experience has reminded us that schools are in fact the cornerstone of the community. The students who have returned are relishing the social contact and being surrounded by their peers.

We need to learn from this experience and “embed the gold”, we need to ensure we keep what worked and build on our new skills.

Changes to School

Our school leaders have prepared a short video to support students with their return to school. Some of changes students will notice are

- Year 7 students must enter their locker space from the oval side and exit onto the quad side.
- Students must enter classrooms via the external doors e.g. rooms 15, 16, 18, 20, 22 and 24 from the primary school side.
- Only students who have classes in rooms 17 and 19 or the study area can use the main door for the new building.
- You can still kick the football but no tackling – it is “Hands Off” at school
- Students wanting to purchase lunch must order before school.
- EFTPOS facilities are now available at the canteen – no phones allowed, and cash is still available.

- Years 8 and 10 are to enter their locker space from the front of the school and exit into the quad area.
- When entering the classroom, students need to put their books down and teachers will then spray their hands with sanitizer. Students may bring their own sanitizer but must apply it upon entering the room for the teacher to see.
- Students must bring their own water bottles to refill.

**2021 ENROLMENTS ARE
NOW OPEN!**

*Access our Virtual Tour and Information
Booklet on our website*

<https://www.rochsec.vic.edu.au/transition/>
*Contact Mr. Sanders at the College for
more information.*

Rochester Secondary College

Information – Week 8

A message from our captain

I am sure you have heard of the death of George Floyd in the USA and of the protesting that is currently taking place throughout the world. I, along with many other students am feeling helpless and ashamed. It has taken the publicized murder of a black man to shed light on the extreme and vast oppression, the deep-seated racism that exists in the world and Australia.

As a white person, until social media became inundated with information over the past week, I was unaware of my white privilege or what that even meant. I never considered how my ignorance impacted indigenous and black communities.

I don't want current and future students to be ignorant like I once was to this injustice. It is unsettling, we must not sit in our bubble of privilege and let something so serious pass when the outrage of George Floyd's death stops 'trending'.

We have a responsibility to educate ourselves on how we (as a predominantly white community) can act to prevent the progression of racism. Please watch videos, listen to the stories of our First Nation people and Black Americans. Check your privilege and learn about how you can use it for good.

Sign petitions, talk about it at the dinner table, open up the conversation about race. Don't let 'casual' racist comments slide, do your research, do everything in your power to liberate the voices of BIPOC communities and dismantle the racism that exists in our society.

Ensure you and your loved ones are educated and equipped with the tools to be an advocate for the rights of people. I have seen posts and articles over social media providing advice to white people like me who may feel helpless in all of this. A quote that I think is important is "being not racist is not enough, we must be anti-racist." Now is not the time to go quiet. Silence is dangerous. Thank you for taking the time to read through all this, don't just agree with what I am saying, act!

Emma Palmer

Thank you to all our staff, students and wider community for their support during the Remote Learning experience. As a school community we have worked together to support all our learners. We are so excited to have all our school back together.

"Always remember you are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, smarter than you think and loved more than you know"

Welcome Back!

