

# KYNETON SECONDARY COLLEGE

## Communicating By Text Message

At Kyneton Secondary College **The Message is “we care!”**

Attendance!! Attendance!! Attendance!!

**We care and it is not ok to be away!**

By having a thorough monitoring of student attendance, ie. form assembly, followed by each of the six periods, we are saying to students, we care about you, we care about your learning time and we care about your future.

Kyneton Secondary College is bringing you the next generation in school-parent communications. Personalised SMS text messages sent direct to and from your mobile phone are the best solution for student safety, attendance management and significant event reminders.

## **Benefiting Your Child and Their Education**

### ***1. You have the right to know that your child is safe.***

If your child has not arrived at school, you need to know immediately. A personalised text message will be sent by the school to your mobile phone. This is the fastest, most reliable way of reaching you, discretely, wherever you are and whatever you are doing.

### ***2. Your child deserves the best possible chance of success.***

Your child needs to be at school to maximize their learning. If your child is not at school an SMS text message will immediately inform you that a problem may exist, allowing swift intervention. **Regular attendance** is a key factor in **school success**.

### ***3. You deserve the most responsive delivery system available.***

Letters are slow and can be intercepted. Phone calls can be intrusive and may not reach parents in time. A text message direct to your mobile phone is fast, effective and discrete.

### ***4. You must have immediate notification in times of crisis.***

There may be times when the College will need to reach a large number of parents instantly. It could be because the school bus is late returning from an excursion, or it might be something much more serious. In any case, a broadcast SMS text message is by far the most effective solution.

### ***5. You deserve a communication tool which fits your busy lifestyle.***

Sending a text message to the College is the most cost and time effective option for busy parents. The message is sent from wherever you are located directly to the school Attendance Officer – no telephone delays, no recorded message instructions, no answering machines.

## **Working Together For Our Children: What Parents Must Do**

Kyneton Secondary College is taking important steps to benefit your child. This is a shared responsibility, and parents must also help the College.

### ***1. Keep your mobile phone details up to date.***

Make sure the College has your current mobile phone number, and notify the school immediately if this number changes.

### ***2. Notify the school in advance when your child is absent.***

If you notify the school as soon as you know your child will be absent, the school will know your child is safe, and will not need to contact you. **An SMS text message can be sent to the College on 0427011777 or leave a message on our dedicated attendance line 5422 6810.**

### ***3. Respond to messages from the school.***

If you receive an absence message from the school, please respond by either a return SMS, leaving a message on our dedicated attendance line 5422 6810 or by phoning the College on 5421 1100. The school needs to know **why** your child is absent.

### ***If you don't have a mobile phone...***

Details of low-cost phone plans ideal for parents who want to benefit from the new system are available from mobile phone providers. The school will maintain its existing contact methods for parents who do not have mobile phones.