

25 March 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The landscape around Australia's response to the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve. In light of the Prime Minister's announcement last night, we have been carefully working through what this government position means for our Colleges, our students and their families, and our staff. At present, we have no confirmed cases of the COVID-19 virus, however, we believe a proactive decision to facilitate two student free days and then transition to remote at home learning is essential to mitigate health risks, and is in the best interests of our community.

Today the Colleges' Executive Leadership team, in consultation with the Board, have made the following informed decisions:

1. Thursday 26 March and Friday 27 March will be student-free days. Further communication around the completion of Year 12 and Year 11 exams at MBC will be forwarded by Mrs Kay Gleeson.
2. Remote at home learning will commence for all students on Monday 30 March up to and including Thursday 2 April.
3. Friday 3 April will be the commencement of the Easter term break.

Student Free Days – Thursday 26 and Friday 27 March

To assist teachers to finalise preparations for remote at home learning which commences on Monday 30 March, the colleges encourage families to keep children at home on these days. However, we do appreciate that this is short notice for parents, and therefore, we will be offering supervision for children on campus for those families who are unable to manage the supervision of their children at home. Please note that this supervision will involve a modified program for students who attend.

Remote at home learning – Monday 30 March to Thursday 2 April

From Monday, we will run timetabled classes remotely in order to keep the routines and structures of the school day as normal as possible. Guidelines about remote learning for students have previously been shared with students and parents. A link to these documents can be found below

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While most families will be able to keep children at home to access and engage with remote learning, we understand that some families may need to send their children to the College. On campus, they will access the same remote at home learning activities, under the supervision of College staff.

If you would like your child/ren supervised on campus during **any** of these days, we ask that you register. This will provide the College with a record of students in our care for the day and to allow appropriate planning. Further details on how to register will be sent separately.



Primary school learning packs have been prepared and will be sent home with students this afternoon; some students may have already received these. For those students who have been absent, packs will be available for collection at MBC from Primary Reception and at MBBC from Student Reception.

It is our hope that we will be able to re-commence on-site learning again on Monday 20 April, but this is a rapidly changing situation which we will monitor vigilantly. We will be communicating any decision about the commencement of Term 2 at the beginning of the second week of the term break. Government advice will be a critical part of this decision and in the event of the pandemic intensifying over the holiday period, our remote at home learning will continue in Term 2.

Co-curricular and External provided Activities

In addition to the above plans, all external activities and co-curricular activities will also cease effective from the close of business today (Wednesday 25 March 2020). Many of these activities have already been the subject of mandated closures by the Federal Government. This further cessation, including the Aquatic Centre, is consistent with the Federal Government advice and in the continued best interests of the health and well-being of our community.

We would also like to thank our partners in these activities for their co-operation and understanding in this difficult time. Families are encouraged to be in contact with each provider for further information.

Expression of gratitude

The Executive Leaders and Board would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to our students, families and staff who have been so encouraging and supportive of each other during these challenging times.

Our dedicated staff have been extremely busy, with everyone going above and beyond to ensure we continue to develop innovative solutions for the delivery of meaningful learning experiences.

These decisions have involved a great deal of careful and measured thought and have not been taken lightly. We have faith in the plans and arrangements we have put in place to ensure this community navigates its path through these uncharted waters.

If you have any questions about the Colleges' response to this emerging health situation, please do not hesitate to contact the respective Heads of College.

Kind regards,

Janet Stewart
Head of College – MBC

Andrew Holmes
Head of College - MBBC