

18.03.2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to provide an update on the latest coronavirus advice and how we are preparing for changes to school routines, including the possibility of a school closure. Our overall priority remains the safety of all staff and students and the continuity of student learning. Working in partnership with you will minimise the impact of these changes on students and their learning.

### **Pupil Free Day - Continuity of student learning:**

A pupil-free day has been scheduled for **Friday, 27 March** to allow staff to prepare necessary work and undergo training for the possibility of a school closure. If our school is closed for an extended period, students will be asked to continue their learning from home. Please note that this may also impact outside school hours care providers. I apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. I have no doubt that this day will benefit all students in the long-term.

### **School closures:**

Our national and state authorities continue to make it clear they will look at appropriate measures to slow transmission rates to limit the pressure on our health system as necessary. It is clear that broad school closures will (and are) being weighed up as a part of the containment strategies. We will continue to closely monitor and be guided by the advice of our state and national authorities which (to date) have not proposed broad school closures. The two most likely eventualities are:

- school specific (spot) closures as a health response to a critical incident (eg a school is closed for 3 days after a student or staff member returns a positive test); and/or
- potential broader school closure as part of an emergency or disaster management response (likely coupled with other community restrictions).

Parents will be advised immediately in the event of a school closure, and procedures set out in previous communications will be followed.

### **Local school excursions and events:**

In accordance with current guidelines and restrictions, many of our College events have been either cancelled, postponed or yet to be confirmed. We will aim to provide the most accurate information to you as it comes to hand. Please check this link regularly for updates.

[Click here for updates on events.](#)

### **Communications:**

The College will aim to provide as much information and guidelines to the community as possible. Please ensure that you are regularly checking your emails, our website and the College Mobile App for updates as this will be the main form of communication.

Please note that as our online calendar can take up to 24 hours to sync its data, we cannot always guarantee the accuracy of its information during this ever-changing situation. Please refer to the web link provided above for our most up to date information on College events.

### **Travel:**

Please reconsider any unnecessary overseas travel in the coming months. While we understand that in some cases this travel might be unavoidable for family circumstances, overseas travel for holiday purposes should be postponed. Overseas travel arrivals now require two weeks mandatory self-isolation on return to Australia and overseas destinations are adding similar requirements at their end. Two weeks self-isolation means a significant loss of learning time for your children.

### **Financial difficulties:**

I am aware that some families may be experiencing financial difficulties related to the pandemic. If this is the case I would urge you to make a confidential appointment with the Business Manager to discuss a range of available options including a fee concession.

### **Some tips for keeping your children safe and well:**

- If your child shows symptoms of a cold or flu, keep them home. If those symptoms persist, and the symptoms are more than a 'cold', you should seek medical advice.
- If your child is well they should attend school. It is likely the pandemic will be with us for months, not weeks.
- Talk to your children about hygiene and model the recommended behaviour at home – hand washing and sneezing protocols in particular.
- Respond appropriately to issues relating to student anxiety. Some tips for talking to your child can be found [here](#).
- Please talk to your child's teacher or myself if assistance is required at school to manage anxiety levels.
- Reassure your Year 12 student that he/she will not be disadvantaged by assessment changes due to coronavirus.

Please refer to the [Queensland Health](#) site for further updates and guidelines.

We greatly appreciate the support and goodwill already shown by our parent community. If you have any further concerns or questions, please contact your child's teacher or me.

Kind regards

Chris Gabbett

Principal