



**MARY
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COLLEGE**

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Dear Parents and Carers

RE: End of Term 1 and Start of Term 2 Arrangements

End of Term 1

As a result of the evolving COVID-19 situation, today the Queensland Government has advised that next week Queensland schools will be student free. While students are not required to attend school next week, the College will provide **supervision** for students, from Monday to Thursday, where their parents are required to attend work and for vulnerable students (e.g. those living in out-of-home care). **The College will not be providing supervision for students on Friday, 3 April.**

To assist with planning for the provision of supervision from Monday to Thursday next week it would be helpful to know the approximate numbers of students who may be attending. **Could you please complete the online form before 10am Friday, 27 March.**

The change to the end of Term 1 arrangements is designed to help our staff and school prepare for the remote delivery of teaching and learning in Term 2. Should this eventuate, it would involve learning at home for many families.

I want to thank our dedicated staff for their continued support of our students during this very challenging time. Their wellbeing is also a key factor in our planning and preparation.

Term 2 Arrangements

As the Premier advised, the precise arrangements for Week 1 of Term 2 will be advised closer to that time and will be guided by the advice of health authorities.

Consistent with the Premier and Prime Minister's recent announcements about the need to provide appropriate social distancing at schools, we anticipate that parents who can support learning at home will be asked to keep their children at home from Week 1 of Term 2.

It is also likely that schools will need to remain operational at the start of Term 2 for those parents who need to send their children due to work commitments (unless their child is sick) or because the student is vulnerable (such as those living out of home). As a College, we are committed to supporting our essential workers at this challenging time.

We will confirm the specific arrangements for Term 2 as soon as we are able to.

However, to assist with our initial Term 2 planning, please advise the College in the online form if you anticipate that you will need to send your child/ren to school from Week 1 of Term 2. This will assist us to make appropriate arrangements to plan for students who may need to attend school.

Student Wellbeing

We know this is an unsettling time for the whole community and it is important that as a College community and as families, we provide reassurance for our students and keep their lives as normal as possible.

Students will be supported with their learning as much as possible whilst working from home. Teachers will continue to be available should you have questions about the any aspect of this.

Year 11 & 12 students

Specific information regarding senior assessments will be communicated with students and parents in those year levels. As with all students, provisions for online learning are underway.

Tuition fees

We acknowledge the difficult economic circumstances many families now find themselves in and we would encourage any family facing difficulty with tuition fees to discuss this with the Principal or Business Manager. We remain committed to providing an education to all students through these difficult times.

As the College will continue to operate and our staff will keep working to provide continuity of teaching and learning, including learning at home arrangements, tuition fees will continue to be charged. Please contact the Business Manager immediately if you are experiencing any financial difficulty as a result of COVID-19.

School Communications

Although we are likely to commence under new arrangements in Term 2, we will continue to communicate with you through the normal College channels as new information comes to hand. Please ensure you continue to regularly check your emails, the College App, website and social media for updates.

You can contact the College by email at highfields@twb.catholic.edu.au or by phoning 4698 7777.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the sick and the vulnerable at this time and also with the frontline health and emergency services workers bringing care and healing to those affected by the virus.

I know this will be a difficult time for our whole community and I thank you in advance for your support for our students and staff and your understanding as we go forward.

Yours sincerely

Chris Gabbett

Principal