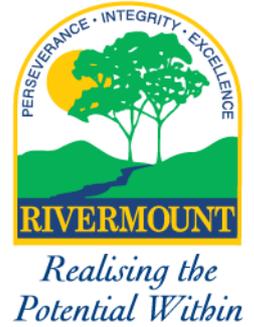


Rivermount College



20 March 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

COVID-19 Secondary School Update and Information

Firstly, I would like to thank you for the good common sense approach parents are taking with regards to this unprecedented COVID-19 season. As you are aware, the Australian Government has stipulated that schools must remain open. Rivermount College has adhered to that directive and will remain open until advised otherwise.

It should be noted that unless there are genuine health concerns within your family and self-isolation is required, students should be in attendance at school as per Government expectations.

Current School status for students:

School is operational as per usual, with students going about their classes, following good personal hygiene and keeping social distance as responsibly as practicable.

Students that have exams scheduled in classes over the next two weeks will need to ensure they sit these exams. I ask that all well students attend school for their exams. Good social distance and good hygiene practices will be adhered to in exam rooms. If your child has been required to self-isolate or there are serious health conditions and concerns within your immediate family, I would ask those students in Years 7, 8 and 9 complete their exams at home. Senior students are bound by QCAA regulation and all exams must be sat at school, failure to do so will require medical documentation.

*Completing exams at home is unprecedented at Rivermount College and very strict protocols and expectations have been put in place, to allow this to occur in Years 7 to Year 9 only. **The exam paper must be collected from Student Welfare on the morning of the exam. It will be in a sealed envelope with an 'Off-Campus Assessment Supervision Information and Declaration Form'. The exam must be returned in the same envelope the following day.***

As the College is currently open and operational, our online learning model has not been implemented. It will only be implemented, if and when we are directed to close. I encourage students who are required to work from home to use their initiative to engage with their learning via the learning platforms that their teachers have already set up, such as OneNote, Google Classrooms, Mathletics, Literacy Planet, JacPlus, and Education Perfect. May I also stress, that while teachers are teaching full days in their physical classrooms, they are also setting and marking assessments, completing Term 1 reports and preparing for online learning. It is likely that right now, teachers may not respond to every email request to send work home.

Remote Online Learning – What will it look like?

In the Secondary School, online learning will be run as per the students' existing timetable. Students will be asked to attend their subjects as their timetable suggests. Teachers will have work set for students to complete. This work will be provided via numerous learning platforms, such as Google classrooms, OneNote, Mathletics, Planet literacy, Education perfect, Jacplus and at times emails.

Additionally, teachers may also video conference with students to offer instructional learning, explanations, examples and the opportunity to simply check in and connect with their student. This video conferencing will be through Google 'meet'. To this end, teachers will have expectations for their virtual classes, attendance will be checked, work will be checked, microphones may be muted, and respect and appropriate use of the online chat function is paramount. The virtual classroom is only to be used when the teacher is present in the room, as per normal classroom expectations.

It is also worth mentioning, that we may make the decision in the Secondary School to move to our online learning model before the end of term, with some students working from their classrooms and others from home. However, I will let you know in due course if and when that occurs.

Finally, in this time of unprecedented uncertainty, it is a time to support one another, and to show grace to one another as we navigate through with our students, our work and our very diverse family scenarios. I leave you with a verse from Philippians 4:6 7 & 7 *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”*

Yours sincerely,



Adele Ramsay
Head of Secondary