

Rivermount College



27 March 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Principal's Message | COVID-19 UPDATE | Thursday 27 March 2020

As we move rapidly towards the end of what has been an unexpected and challenging Term One, I would like to advise families of the arrangements that will take place next week. The Queensland State Government has announced that from Monday next week, all schools will be 'student-free'.

For our community we have made the decision to utilise Monday 30 March and Tuesday 31 March as valuable opportunities to test and develop our online learning platforms and delivery. As such, these days remain dedicated to teaching and learning. Regardless of whether students are learning from home or being supervised on campus, learning will be operational.

To ease any doubt or confusion for families, the following information applies to the operation of the College for next week:

Attendance:

We are being urged to proactively do our part to minimise the spread of the COVID-19 virus and self-isolate where possible. I would like to encourage our College families to adhere to this message to remain home with your children where possible. The College remains open to families that fall into the category of essential workers and vulnerable students. Below is a clear definition that has been issued by the Government and Independent Schools Queensland:

Essential Workers:

There is currently no formal Government definition of what is an "essential worker". The Premier in her announcement on schools stated that essential workers are "anyone currently in our workforce". At a press conference on Tuesday, the Prime Minister said essential workers meant: "*it can be essential in a service, whether it's a nurse or a doctor or a schoolteacher, or a public servant who is working tonight to ensure that we can get even greater capacity in our Centrelink offices, working until 8:00 pm under the new arrangement in the call centres - these are all essential jobs.*" "*People stacking shelves - that is essential. People earning money in their family when another member of their family may have lost their job and can no longer earn - that's an essential job.*"

Vulnerable Students:

The following is the Department of Education advice on vulnerable students. For COVID-19 arrangements, vulnerable students could include students who:

- are currently receiving services from Child Safety including children who are subject to a child protection order
- are subject to a youth justice order Essential

Wherever possible, it is best for children to remain with their families at home and I ask parents to be mindful of this when deciding as to the location of learning and supervision next week. As per the government directive, parents, where possible are encouraged to work from home and in this instance to also keep their child/children at home with them. Whilst we will continue to support those in need by keeping the College campus open, the safety and wellbeing of our staff and those students requiring supervision on campus is paramount to us.

Pupil Free Days

Wednesday 1 April to Friday 3 April are pupil free days. This means that students are not required to participate in online learning from home or at the College. For students requiring supervision based on the clear definitions above, the following will apply:

Supervision: Students will be supervised from 8:30 am to 3:20 pm as per a normal school day. Activities will be conducted by staff on campus. Primary students are asked to meet by 8:30 am in the Undercover Area near the College Green and Secondary students will meet at The Colin Young Community Centre.

Attire: Students being supervised on campus on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday may attend in appropriate neat casual clothing with closed in shoes. **Attendance on Monday and Tuesday requires correct College Uniform.**

Transport: Buses will be operational next week however each individual company may decide to make special arrangements and we encourage parents requiring these services to contact the provider directly for details. **Please note that our own RMC Buses will not operate for the duration of next week.**

Canteen: The Canteen will continue to operate from Monday to Friday next week. Students are encouraged to order online through Flexischools. Secondary students are reminded that contactless payment is preferred if ordering over the counter at recess and lunch. As is standard practice, stocks in the canteen are reduced at the end of a term and some items may not be available.

I would like to sincerely thank every member of our community for the support that has been given to ensure that our students remain safe and continue to learn. I urge everyone to practice the simple, yet effective methods of social distancing and hygiene and to continue to support each other during this difficult time.

Yours sincerely



Richard Young
Principal