



From the Principal

20 March 2020

Update 7 - COVID-19

Dear parents and caregivers,

I write to you at the end of another extraordinary week at the College and, of course, society more broadly. In this past week as you are aware much has changed: large gatherings are now prohibited and GPS sport and activities suspended or cancelled.

What is unchanged is our commitment to the health, hygiene and wellbeing of our students. Also, the College Critical Incident Team continues to manage daily operations, mitigate risk and to plan for a range of possible future scenarios. All our decisions are informed by the latest [government advice](#). During the course of the week, we have continued to focus on maintaining regular school operations and ensuring that our students are positively engaging with their school work.

The College is currently preparing for the likelihood that schools will be closed for an extended period of time. On Tuesday evening all students and teachers were engaged in a readiness test of our IT systems. Further to that, the Learning and Teaching office has been heavily involved in planning our *learning@home* initiative.

To enable our teachers to more fully prepare the scope and sequence of *learning@home* curriculum content for online delivery the following has been decided:

- There will be a Pupil Free Day for Years 5 to 12 students on Wednesday 25 March 2020.
- Teachers will spend the day planning and preparing a comprehensive online learning program which will be implemented in the event of a school closure.
- Detailed information about the arrangements for next Wednesday and the structure of the online learning program will be forwarded on Monday.
- Lessons will recommence on Thursday 26 March and assessment will continue as scheduled.
- Boarders will have a special program for that day and any families who cannot supervise their sons on Wednesday may register to join that program. A Google Form link will be included in Monday's correspondence.

I trust that this information will reassure you about the preparedness of the College for what lies ahead.

In due course, we will advise you of the necessary cancellations and postponements of Term 2 events and activities. I provide you with early advice that we will not be holding Parent/ Teacher interviews at the start of Term 2. Current guidelines around social distancing prevent these being held. Should school resume in the usual manner after the holidays please email your son's classroom teacher to discuss or arrange for a phone interview if you have concerns about his progress.

There has been considerable focus on school closures in the media this past week and the Prime Minister made a very clear statement about keeping schools open. It is the College's explicit intention to remain open until we are directed to do otherwise. Understandably some families have chosen to keep their sons at home. This understanding extends to boarding families, in particular, who have concerns given the separation and distance from their sons. While the College respects these family-based decisions we are not resourced to provide online learning and teaching at present. The College will provide the usual levels of support in terms of the provision of school work through individual student's google accounts. The Learning and Teaching office can be contacted regarding assessment that may be missed due to school absence.

During these final two weeks of the term, spot closures remain a possibility should a member of the Nudgee College community test positive for the virus. Should this occur we will be directed by Queensland Health while contact tracing and cleaning of the College are undertaken.

As I write, I am aware that the National Cabinet is currently meeting and there is particular focus on schools within their agenda. All educational authorities and schools await further decisions emanating from that meeting which may affect school operations in the immediate future. Later today, there is a meeting with Queensland's Deputy Chief Medical Officer regarding boarding schools and I am part of that meeting. Any decisions arising from that meeting will be conveyed to boarding families should there be any changes to current arrangements.

I conclude this update as I did last week by reminding the community that the College is in the fortunate position of having access to a well-resourced Health Centre, including a fully-functioning isolation ward. In addition, we have clear protocols and highly qualified nursing staff who are experienced in dealing with infectious diseases.

I, again, bring to your attention the following. If your child develops flu-like symptoms, please:

- keep your son at home;
- avoid close contact with others such as touching, kissing or hugging, or any mass gatherings, especially those involving other children;
- see a doctor or contact 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) immediately;
- seek medical advice if your son has other underlying medical conditions; and
- call ahead to the medical centre or doctor's surgery, advising of your son's symptoms.

At the College we continue to reiterate messages regarding hygiene and it is also important to encourage your son to:

- wash his hands regularly with soap and water, particularly before and after eating, and after going to the toilet;
- use alcohol-based hand sanitiser if soap is unavailable;
- cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or the inside of their elbow; and
- dispose of tissues in the bin immediately.

Finally, as a Catholic community we continue to keep in our thoughts and prayers all those individuals and families affected adversely by this serious health situation.

I thank you for your ongoing support in managing this unfolding situation and aiding student awareness of the additional need for strong health and hygiene practices.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Fullagar', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Fullagar
Principal