



St Mark's

ANGLICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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A School of the Anglican Schools Commission Inc.

30 March, 2020

Dear Parents

Due to the uncertainty around the full impact of COVID-19 into our short and medium-term futures, the decision has been made to cancel the 2020 Year 8 Heart of the Nation Tour to Canberra scheduled for November 2020.

This decision will be met with some sadness for our students, who undoubtedly value and enjoy this milestone during their time in the Middle School.

Whilst students may be disappointed, this is the best decision all round, whilst having the safety and wellbeing of students, families and staff in the forefront of our decision making. Some of the main points that were considered in finalising our decision included:

- We are very conscious of the financial strain that many families are now under, and this will have an impact into the future. The cancellation of the tour will alleviate some strain. Parents who paid the first instalment of \$600 in their Term 1 fees will have this amount credited to the Term 2 fee account.
- We are concerned about the wellbeing of our students and staff once COVID-19 has eased and we believe that allowing students and staff an uninterrupted time at school later in the year will be of benefit for all.
- It is currently unknown how long students will be working at home on the Distance Learning Plan. Given this, there may be a need for us to have students onsite uninterrupted once onsite schooling resumes. We will endeavour to find opportunities in Perth that can provide similar learning opportunities to those provided in Canberra for our students.
- Uncertainty around the potential for increasing costs of flights and entry into venues in November, which may increase the cost of the tour to a point where we feel the price point is not viable and is outside of the approximate cost advertised to parents.

Please note that this tour is cancelled, not postponed. Bookings for the tour takes place 18 months prior to travel, so it is not feasible to postpone.

We appreciate your understanding that this was not an easy decision to make, and that the best interests of our students, staff and families were central to our thinking.

I would like to thank Mr Mike Day for his organisation of the tour, up to this point, and to the staff who so willingly put their hand up to come on tour with us to travel with such a great group of students.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julia M. B.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Julia McGibbon Briggs
Head of Middle School