



St Mark's

ANGLICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

St Marks Drive Hillarys WA 6025
PO Box 231 Hillarys WA 6923
T: (08) 9403 1300
www.stmarks.wa.edu.au
A School of the Anglican Schools Commission Inc.

26 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your support of the School and our staff as we have transitioned to our Distance Learning Plan this week. Feedback regarding our students' engagement with the Plan, whether at school or at home, has been very positive. I know that teaching staff have been very buoyed by, and appreciative of, the many comments directed to them personally, expressing gratitude for the learning opportunities and support provided to their students. Thank you, also, for your support of your children in helping them to set up a home environment conducive to study, and a routine that also considers their wellbeing and a need for balance.

Feedback from our teaching staff is that students have adapted well to the new mode of teaching and learning. A number of students have commented on how productive they have been. Should any difficulties emerge, however, students are encouraged to contact their teacher, in the first instance, or Head of Year for help. Congratulations to all of our students, and teachers, for the positive way that they have embraced this change and their commitment to ongoing learning.

There seems to be some confusion about the School's plan for next week. My letter earlier this week stated that we would move exclusively to distance learning from Monday next week, 30 March. This allowed teachers some 'wriggle room' this week if face-to-face teaching was necessary at school, but all students will be fully using the Distance Learning Plan from next week, and in most cases have been doing so for much of this week. Families who need to have their children attend school next week and up until the end of term on 9 April are able to do so. If you have the ability to have your children stay at home next week, please do keep them at home.

You are likely aware of the Premier's announcement earlier today about the response of Government schools to the spread of COVID-19. Parents of students at Government schools will be asked to keep their children home from tomorrow and those schools will close on Friday 3 April. The last week of the term for Government schools, leading up to 9 April, will be pupil-free. St Mark's will continue with our Distance Learning Plan until the end of Term 1 on 9 April unless any further restrictions are imposed by government. We will confirm arrangements for Term 2 at some time in the next few weeks.

The School is here to support all our families during this difficult time. We understand all families are facing unexpected challenges due to COVID-19 and we want to reiterate our support for you, our school community. For those families under severe strain, please contact the School so we can talk about how to best support you during this time. Contact may be made with our Business Manager, Mrs Carolyn Gray, at cgray@stmarks.wa.edu.au or by telephone at 9403 1301.

A reminder that letters being sent home regarding decisions being made by the School and issues relating to our response to COVID-19 are available on our web site [HERE](#). A 'Frequently Asked Questions' document was recently placed there, and this may be of assistance to you.

In this very difficult time in the world, there are several things I have noticed over the past days that are worth remembering and appreciating. Our community has risen to the challenges we are facing and chosen to adopt a positive mindset about getting through these times. People are supporting and caring for each other, and being kind. Our children are showing great resilience in adapting to their new, different way of learning, and focusing on those things that are within their control. I feel very proud of the St Mark's community.

You and your families continue to be in our thoughts and prayers.

This too shall pass

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Davies', written in a cursive style.

Steven Davies
Principal