



St Patrick's College
LAUNCESTON

25 March 2020

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From the Office of the Principal

Dear Parent/Guardian,

RE: Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Wednesday, 25 March Update: Face to Face/Home Learning & Change to School Holidays

Firstly, I wish to thank parents/guardians, students and staff for their ongoing support in this extraordinary situation. The Coronavirus threat is unprecedented and fast-moving territory for us all and it is encouraging to see the way in which our College community is working to ensure the most minimal impact on our students and the wider community.

From today, the government has advised that parents/guardians may choose that their children learn from home. It is important, however, that we continue to offer face-to-face learning at the College for as long as Public Health advise that it is safe to do so. Therefore, our College will be open for students who are unable to learn from home.

LEARNING FROM HOME: 26-03-20 – 03-04-20

Parents/guardians may choose to keep their children at home and support them to utilise Schoolbox to check the Scope and Sequence for each subject, determine which topics are being covered and complete the appropriate tasks. Relevant learning material and assessment tasks are also available on Schoolbox and students are encouraged to email teachers with any questions they have. **Please note that this is not an online e-learning environment for students at this stage, and they will not be under direct instruction from their regular teacher during this period.**

Parents/guardians who choose to keep their children home need to be mindful that the Premier has announced that they must take responsibility for their children to ensure they are safe and are not putting themselves or others at risk by mixing in the community.

FACE TO FACE LEARNING: 26-03-20 – 03-04-20

We recognise that it will be essential for some parents/guardians to be at work and some children may need to remain supervised at school. To support this, students will continue to be offered face-to-face delivery at the College and will be under direct instruction from their teacher during this time.

The Canteen will continue to offer services for breakfast, recess and lunch. School bus transport will also continue as normal.

Staff and students on campus will follow social distancing guidelines and we will continue to implement rigorous cleaning and good hygiene measures across the College.

In the event that we are required to move to full-remote e-learning at the commencement of Term 2, we will continue to offer supervision at the College campus for children of parents/guardians who are considered "essential workers" and those who are required to be on campus.

PARENT/GUARDIAN NOTIFICATION OF STUDENT ATTENDANCE

For planning and duty of care purposes, we are required to determine which of our students will be attending face-to-face learning and those who will be accessing Schoolbox from home.

Urgent Request: All parents/guardians are required to complete the form below as a matter of priority (particularly for those students who will be absent from Thursday 26 March) to indicate if their child(ren) will, or will not be attending College from Thursday 26 March to Friday 3 April. If you have already advised the College that you have chosen to self-isolate your child(ren) you are still required to complete this form.

Notification of Attendance Form: <https://bit.ly/SPC-CV1-Attendance>

There is provision on the form for parents/guardians who are part-time workers to nominate the individual days in which their child/ren will be attending the College campus.

I ask that all parents/guardians please ensure they complete the form to avoid the significant administrative task involved in following up with parents/guardians of those students who may be self-isolating but notification has not been made via the form above. As a duty of care to our students we will need to follow up with individual parents/guardians of any students who are not in attendance at the College and have not used the form to advise they are learning from home.

EXTENSION OF SCHOOL HOLIDAYS: 06-04-20 – 27-04-20

The school holiday period will be brought forward to commence on Monday 6 April, therefore the last day of term for students will be Friday 3 April.

This time is officially classed as a school holiday period for students and there is no requirement for them to complete learning from home during this period.

From Monday 6 – Thursday 9 April, College staff will have the time they need to develop their skills and capabilities to effectively support e-learning over the longer term. This includes becoming familiar with the learning at home materials and delivery methods, and preparing take home materials for students.

While it is hoped that students will return to the College for normal, face-to-face teaching and learning in Term 2, St Patrick's College is well prepared to move to a full e-learning environment to ensure the continuity and quality of teaching and learning in a remote environment.

SCHEDULE FOR ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE

| Date | Education Provision |
|---------------|---|
| 26/03 – 3/04 | Face-to-face learning will be delivered by teaching staff from the College. Parents/guardians may choose to keep their child(ren) at home should they wish and if so, should encourage their child(ren) to access Schoolbox. Parents/guardians who cannot support their child's learning at home, may continue to send their child(ren) to the College. |
| 06/04 – 09/04 | School holidays commence for students. Staff will plan and prepare for potential e-learning at home in Term 2. |
| 28/04 | At this stage, it is planned that the College will open at the commencement of Term 2. Parents/guardians will be kept fully informed of any changes to this. |



COLLEGE UNIFORM/MIDFORD CITY STORES

Please note that the College Uniform Store is closed until further notice. The Midford City Store remains open at this stage from 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM Monday-Friday and 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM Saturday, however, these times are subject to change. Please check the College website to confirm.

PARENT/GUARDIAN VISITS TO THE COLLEGE

We ask that parents/guardians please cease or minimise visiting the College until further notice. As businesses are shutting down and our community is being asked to isolate ourselves, we strongly encourage you to not attend the College in person unless absolutely necessary, i.e. picking up materials or textbooks for your child to study at home.

Currently we have some parents/guardians attending the College to pay tuition fees. Unless you have no other way of paying these fees, it would be greatly appreciated if you could make alternative arrangements in order to minimise the risk to you and our staff in conducting the transaction. We offer payment options of BPAY, Payment Portal (via Schoolbox), EFT, Direct Debit, Centrepay or by phone with a credit card. If you would like to set up a Direct Debit or you have any questions in relation to payment of fees, please call Accounts on 6341 9988 or email fees@stpatricks.tas.edu.au and one of our staff will contact you.

In conclusion, I would like to assure you that we understand the challenges parents/guardians and students will face with remote online learning and for some of our students, regression is inevitable. We understand that many parents/guardians will be balancing working from home while supervising their children and we do not expect you to have teaching expertise.

Teachers and pastoral staff will be available to offer ongoing support and we are understanding of the fact that realistically, students may not be able to achieve the same teaching and learning outcomes they do in a traditional classroom environment.

We appreciate that the landscape is changing rapidly and our plans continue to evolve quickly and we seek to ensure that we are well prepared and will keep you informed every step of the way.

Whatever the landscape, St Patrick's College will continue to be a school community of faith, learning, respect and of service in the Catholic tradition. What is most important during this challenging time is that we all have an understanding that the mental health and wellbeing of our young people is of utmost importance and how they feel during this time will stay with them long after the memory of what they did during this time has passed. Let us continue to offer each other kindness, understanding and support during this unprecedented time.

God Bless,



Mr Tony Daley
Principal

