



St Patrick's College
LAUNCESTON

01 May 2020

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From the Office of the Principal

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Re: Learning@Home – Term 2, Week 1 Update

As the end of the first full week of Learning@Home draws to a close, it is timely to provide parents an update and some reflection thus far.

Those of us who have chosen the profession of teacher have done so because we want to help, teach and develop young people to tackle challenges and flourish in life. The energy in which the students provide staff at the College is both uplifting and energising, however without most students, the College is only a shell of itself. I speak for all staff when I say we can't wait for students to be back, however we must continue to remain patient.

Similar to face-to-face learning, not all students respond to Learning@Home in the same manner. The challenge for staff is to cater for the varied learning needs of all our students, whether they are in programs such as Gifted & Talented, Learning Support, English as an Additional Language or wherever they may be on their learning journey.

I thank all members of staff at the College, for they have been working extra hours to prepare lessons and learning packs, create online videos, develop and implement new processes, prepare Google Meets and many other varied and innovative tasks in response to this new way of learning. The creativity some staff have shown in attempting to provide students with an authentic and interesting online learning experience has been amazing.

We do, however, recognise that this new learning platform has not been without its teething problems and acknowledge the challenges required to work around.

We are thankful that over the past few years the College has made great advances in upskilling staff to use technology more effectively and efficiently via Schoolbox, the Google suite of products and many other programs that are now being used in earnest. The challenge we now face is adapting the delivery of teaching and learning pedagogy in a non-face-to-face environment.

Students are responding to these changes in many and varied ways and we are aware that some are flourishing while others are struggling and we will be reviewing how we respond to the expectations set for our students.

A number of staff have been involved in meetings with external bodies in order to understand implications to our students. Externally assessed TASC subjects remain a concern and our dedicated staff have been meeting with TASC representatives to ensure we remain updated. VET courses are also challenging due to their practical nature but we are working to ensure students are not disadvantaged and I recently met with the Head of University of Tasmania to ensure that students can apply for early entry into university.

Student and staff wellbeing continues to be one of our top priorities. Morning tutor has been a great success as the students catch up with each other before commencing their learning for the day. I have also enjoyed attending tutors each day to touch base with students.



The College has implemented a wellbeing survey on Schoolbox called *Pulse Check*, which students are asked to complete on a weekly basis and is designed to provide an indicator of their wellbeing. We have already commenced following up with some students based on their responses.

We recognise the stress and pressure that families may be experiencing at this unprecedented time and hope and pray that we will all come out the other side more resilient and with the confidence and pride to tackle future challenges.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Daley', is centered within a light grey rectangular box.

Mr Tony Daley
Principal

