

Dear Parent/Guardian

**RE: Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

As we head into the weekend, I wanted to provide you with one final update. As of this morning, it was announced that NAPLAN testing for 2020 has been cancelled. This includes any pre-online testing and equating studies the College had scheduled. I welcome this news as it assists the College to focus on the wellbeing of our students and continuity of education.

As we progress through the following weeks with a degree of uncertainty, the Department of Education is trialling several approaches to ensure students have access to the curriculum. Ashdale Secondary College staff and learning areas are well advanced in this planning should it be required.

The Federal Government has announced further measures in trying to keep the Australian community safe and limit the spread of the virus including restricting travel in and out of our remote Aboriginal Communities with a recommendation of social distancing to include four square metres (which does not apply to schools).

We are continuing to take additional hygiene precautions and have a cleaner on site during school hours. Duties being undertaken include the cleaning of high contact items and areas such as doors, handles, light switches and handrails throughout the day.

I understand that many parents are concerned and want reassurance from the College that we are taking every precaution possible. I want to assure you that we are responding promptly and are working with your children to reduce anxiety and react to stressors as much as possible. Ashdale Secondary College is a subscriber to SchoolTV, a resource for parents, by going to our website you can access a special report regarding Coronavirus, this may assist you with some strategies that will help reassure your child.

Over the weekend, please kindly remind your children that the College has put into place year group areas and toilets to assist with social distancing and that they need to adhere to this. I wish to acknowledge the efforts of all staff, students and parents in these challenging times. We are lucky to have a College community that is strong, supportive and professional.

Kind regards



Kylie Bottcher  
Principal

20 March 2020