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An Independent Public School

Dear Parent/Guardian

RE: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

I would like to start by thanking the support we have received from our College community during this difficult time. All of our staff truly appreciate the positive messages from parents. With today marking the beginning of parents being encouraged to keep their children home if they are able, we have also marked the beginning of a complete move to online learning. Several students have contacted individual teachers, and many parents have been calling to sort out problems with logging into CONNECT. I encourage this communication to continue as together we will progress into this new style of teaching and learning. Any material required can be collected via the front office by pre-arranging it with your child's teacher.

As Australia progresses to more stringent rules around social distancing, I have asked staff to cease all non-essential face to face meetings. This means if communication can be done via the phone, then this is encouraged. We recently sent out Interim progress reports which are a good indication of how your child was progressing for the majority of this Term. Some reports may have indicated an interview was desired; at this time, I ask that you are patient with us not responding to all these requests as staff are busy with creating new online learning content.

As a College, we have created a "Ready to Learn at Home" chart (attached) and encourage you to use this with your child in creating a routine for continuing education. Remember you need to be the guide as to how much you and your family can handle as you navigate through these new structures. Having access to technology has never been more essential to aid your child's learning. With the College being a BYOD school for quite some time the majority of our students do have this access. If any Year 11 or 12 ATAR student does not have device access at home, we can arrange a short term loan of a laptop from the College. A loan device will require our ICT Usage Acceptance Form – Take Home Device to be signed stating the student will adhere to the ICT Usage Policy and that the loan device will be looked after and secured in the home environment. For other students we can replicate much of the online learning content in print format and encourage you to get into contact with us, via one of your child's Year Coordinators should you need support in this area.

As a College in the wider public school system, we are awaiting guidance from the School Curriculum and Standards Authority regarding assessments and the changes to assessment outlines in Year 7-12. As this information is received, resulting changes will need to be made, I will be in touch to outline and explain these amendments. Further to this, all Workplace Learning has been postponed for students in Year 11 and 12.

We appreciate your patience and understanding and will be in contact with you again as soon as more information becomes available.

Kind regards

Kylie Bottcher
Principal

30 March 2020