

Dear Parents/Guardians

RE: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Following on from the State Government announcements on Friday 17 April, I would like to outline to parents and guardians, what to expect for Term 2 whether your child will be returning to the College or learning at home. We ask that you complete this survey (<https://bit.ly/AshdaleSCTerm2>) to assist the College in planning for Term 2.

Returning to the College:

- Designated year group areas will be implemented for recess and lunch breaks with allocated toilets. The designated year group toilets apply before school, recess and lunchtime.
- Parent and external visitors are being asked not to enter College grounds. There are times at which this may need to occur, for example disabled drop-off and pickup and new enrolments.
- Timetabled classes will run as per timetable.
- The College has already put in place a day cleaning regime, and this will be further enhanced by additional government funding. An additional two cleaners (therefore a total of four cleaners) will work throughout the day to ensure all high-use areas, such as benchtops, desks, door handles, taps and handrails, are regularly cleaned and surfaces disinfected.
- Curie Café will open but be available for takeaway only.
- The Library will remain closed.
- Drink fountains will be available for refilling water bottles only. Drinking directly from the fountains will be discouraged.
- Excursions, assemblies, camps and interschool activities will not be conducted.
- If your child is unwell, please have them stay home.

Learning at home:

- Online work will be provided via CONNECT.
- Contact by the school will be made each week via SEQTA.

We will provide further information on how our College will manage this situation through updates as required and when necessary information becomes available. These arrangements will be in place and reviewed ahead of Week 4 commencing 18 May.

We want all families and children to feel supported and informed during this time. I thank you for your partnership as we navigate this together.

Kind regards



Kylie Bottcher
Principal

23 April 2020



Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Dear parents and carers

Chief Health Officer advice for parents on returning to schools

The COVID-19 pandemic is, and will continue to be, a very worrying time for many parents and carers as we see the devastation caused by this virus around the world. Importantly, schools are a central part of a child's life. They provide stability, a sense of achievement and a rich learning environment for every child. This is especially important at a time when many children and young people are feeling stressed about COVID-19 and worried about what the future may hold.

Fortunately, Western Australia (WA) has been spared from widespread disease through effective border controls, contact tracing, quarantine and social distancing measures, and currently has very few cases and no evidence of community spread. I encourage you and your families to keep up the good work, as we have achieved a lot, but we need to maintain our efforts for some time to come. Thank you for all that you are doing.

My job is to ensure that the Western Australian community stays as healthy and disease free as possible. Together with the Chief Health Officers in other States and Territories, I have weighed up the pros and cons of children attending school.

With the very low levels of COVID-19 in Western Australia, along with the wider public health strategies now in place, I strongly believe there is no need for school closures in this state currently. Even when we had higher rates of disease in our state, only 1.5% of cases were school students, all of whom had mild illness and have fully recovered. There also was no spread between students or to teachers. I encourage families to feel comfortable and safe about sending their children to school.

However, if your child has a chronic medical condition or a compromised immune system, you may wish to consult your GP or paediatrician when deciding if your child should return to school.

I have been working closely with the Department for Education, Catholic Education and the Independent Schools Board to make schools as safe as possible for everyone. This includes increasing cleaning schedules, making sure there is soap and tissues for students and staff, having protocols in place to practice social distancing, not having large gatherings of the school community and teaching children, however young, to avoid passing on germs.

We have a clear protocol for a minimum 24-hour closure in the event of a case of COVID-19 in a school, to allow us to contact anyone at risk and to undertake a deep clean. These rigorous protocols have been adopted previously without further issues.

If your child/children are well, I encourage you to send them back to school this term. If they have symptoms of a cold or have a fever, please keep them at home until they are better. If you are concerned they may have contracted COVID-19, they can be tested through our COVID Clinics or in private collection centres.

I wish you and your child/children all the very best in health and education for term 2.

Yours sincerely

DR ANDY ROBERTSON
Chief Health Officer

22 April 2020