



19/03/2020

Dear Parent/Carer

It is important that we communicate with families as regularly as possible so that you know how the school is moving to support your child(ren) at school and if necessary at home whilst the community implements strategies around Covid – 19.

I would like to firstly thank the great support we have received this week as we have had to start changing operational practices and making decisions that take into account an issue that is outside the norm.

I will outline a number of important issues that will impact students, parents and community. I have also included at the end an important technology survey that we need every family to complete and have back to the school by Tuesday, March 24th.

Entering the School

We have changed the front entry of the school to better manage the flow of people into the administration area and hence the contact that students and staff have with people external to the school.

This is in no way an attempt to keep parents/carers away, it is aimed at ensuring that contractors and visitors that do not have children at the school can be assessed prior to entry.

Contractors often only need to work in a small pocket of the school and if we direct them to the closest entrance thus minimising unnecessary contact this will assist in keeping our students and staff safe.

At the moment we do not plan to have Parent Information nights until further notice, however, parents/carers can still visit the school. Emergency contacts for students can also still pick students up from school as long as they are locally based. If they are coming from outside the immediate community they will still be able to pick up your child, however, we will bring them out to meet the nominated person.

Work for Absent Students

If a student is away sick or for a genuine reason associated with the Covid -19 virus that requires isolation (this would need a medical certificate) the school will continue to support their education as it would at any time when a student is absent through sickness. This will include work on Hapara (our online platform), hardcopy material that can be posted out and communication via student gmail accounts that they share with teachers.

Students who are currently self-isolating are doing this of their own volition. Students can access Hapara at any time on their chromebooks. Beyond that the school is not obliged to send home additional work to supplement the online platform. Some staff may choose to do so, however, this will be at their discretion.

Assessment Programs

Assessment will continue to occur, as long as, this is feasible in classrooms. There are no specific provisions for students who self-isolate in regards to assessment tasks. The school has decided to continue assessing students as this is necessary for reporting of student achievement. In this climate student achievement may be compromised, however, we still need to track progress.

It is important to note that some assessment tasks will need to be amended because of restrictions around group work. This will impact every faculty, therefore, there will be quite a few changes. We will not be amending the

assessment booklets from scratch, however, if there is a change to the advertised task a 'change in task' form will be attached to the task when it is distributed to students.

Stage 4 and 5

Assessment tasks will be sent home in the mail to absent students irrespective of the reason for absence. If the task is on Hapara then all students will have access to the task and it will not need to be mailed out (unless the family has no access to the internet and the school is aware of this circumstance).

Tasks may be modified for 'at home' tasks – this is not unusual as student access to information or technology may be very different to school. All tasks will be comparable to each other to allow genuine comparison.

If there is a legitimate reason why a student cannot complete the specified task at home, then an estimate will be given to the student. The estimated mark will be used as part of the overall assessment and reported on at the end of the semester.

Stage 6

Stage 6 is different to the other stages as the Preliminary and Higher School Certificate is bound more tightly with requirements around assessment. There are no provisions for students who are self-isolating for assessment support (there are none for Stage 4 and 5 also but we can be more flexible) therefore we have a higher expectation of task completion.

Assessment tasks will be sent home in the mail to absent students irrespective of the reason for absence. If the task is on Hapara then all students will have access to the task and it will not need to be mailed out (unless the family has no access to the internet and the school is aware of this circumstance).

Assessment tasks may be modified due to the 'at home' nature of the situation but modification for a senior task is more complex and has greater limitations. Some tasks may not be able to be satisfactorily modified depending on how it relates to the Preliminary or Higher School Certificate syllabus and the associated assessment guidelines for that course.

There will be no estimates or greater consideration for task non-completion given for senior tasks unless there is a legitimate absence due to sickness or misadventure. Self-isolation does not constitute a legitimate excuse for absence in this case. Tasks will need to be completed by students on self-isolation in line with the school policy. Incomplete or late tasks will be given a zero.

Uniform

It is nice to see students wearing the red and black colours of our school. In the letter home recently, I mentioned that the recommendation is to have as much airflow as possible around individuals and use outside spaces as much as possible. Sitting inside around a heater is comfortable but must be tempered around proximity and warm areas that promote microbe growth.

We are asking that students come to school in uniform but with enough clothes underneath to stay warm at all times. We will not be keeping students outside on inappropriate days, but we must use the available good weather in winter as much as we can.

There will be changes to the indoor student areas for inside days due to the recommendation of 'distancing'. Students will be informed of these changes, however, they are simply alterations to where year groups will be sitting during inside days.

The new junior jumpers were due to arrive this term but due to the limitations with trade with China the Australian Company who are making the jumpers cannot get the supplies of cotton required. It looks like early next term is the likely arrival, but this could change again.


Craig Luccarda
Principal

Important technology survey on the next page

Technology Survey

There has been a lot of talk around about closing schools. This has included timeframes from a few weeks to several months. At the moment we have been informed that schools will remain open, so we are operating with that in mind.

In saying that, as a school we are also preparing for an alternate environment where schools are not operational.

There has been much discussion around how students may learn in a remote or off-site fashion. We have Hapara as a platform and use gmail as a common email system in the classroom. The Department of Education is working on other potential solutions in this space.

We realise that families in our community do not all have internet access or have limited access to the internet. We also realise that families may have internet but may share a limited number of devices or may not have devices such as printers or scanners to support document management. We are also aware that some families have plans or contracts that limit download of data or may compromise data speeds needed for videos.

This survey may be completed by paper or online. The link is <https://forms.gle/JNYsarH9n7Eqs1HGA>

This is a survey that we would like you to identify yourself, so we know what families are dealing with technology wise at home.

If you choose not to identify yourself the survey is still valid and we would prefer this to it not being completed.

Technology Survey

Name of Child(ren): _____

Do you have: (please tick the most appropriate)

Uninterrupted internet access (reliable at all times of the day) _____

Interrupted internet access (unreliable sometimes) _____

Interrupted internet access (unreliable regularly) _____

We have no internet access at home _____

Do you have: (please tick all that are available to you)

A printer that works at home _____

A scanner that works at home _____

A camera (any device) that can take pictures that can then be sent as images via email or uploaded to a site _____

My situation is: (please tick the most appropriate)

A school purchased chromebook is the only digital device in our home _____

A second digital device is available to use for online school work (Microsoft based) _____

A second digital device is available to use for online school work (Apple based) _____

There are 3 or more devices available to use for online school work (access will be no problem) _____

The only digital device(s) in our home is a smart phone _____

My situation is: (please tick the most appropriate)

My internet is provided using a satellite provider _____

My internet is provided using a wireless provider (tower to home) _____

Please return to the school by Tuesday, March 24th.