

23 March 2020

Dear Parents/Caregivers

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID -19) – SCHOOL CLOSURE PREPARATION

General reminders

Thank you for the support you have shown the school. We are in extraordinary times and appreciate the way you are pulling together as a community. However, it is important that we all **keep vigilant**. As time continues it is easy for us not to see many manifestations of illness in our circles of contact and become complacent. This will change in the days and weeks ahead and we need to instill behaviours now that will keep our **families and children safe** for the long term.

Remember if your child exhibits even mild flu-like symptoms please keep them at home. I cannot stress this enough.

NAPLAN Cancellation

You will have heard that **NAPLAN testing has been cancelled for this year**. The Education Council, consisting of all education ministers, indicated that the decision was “taken to assist school leaders, teachers and support staff to focus on the wellbeing of students and continuity of education”. They also reiterated that the National Cabinet has agreed, on the advice of the chief health and medical officers, that “pre-emptive closure of schools are not proportionate or effective as a public health intervention to prevent community transmission of COVID-19 at this time.”

Lessons from home

If the College is forced to close we will still be providing lessons and work for students to continue with via our online platform of student support called Gateway. Our Middle and Senior students will already be very familiar with Gateway. Every one of these students has been provided with a login and a password. Likewise, Gateway will be released as of today to our primary parents along with a login and password. Parents will be able to access their student’s year level page and there is a friendly video on the Parent Page that will help you with navigating this page.

This platform is also available to all of the parents who are choosing to self-isolate at the moment. If you have any questions concerning any of the work on these pages, please directly email your child's teacher who is responsible for setting the work.

We are also in the process of finalising the purchase of industry-standard video conferencing software that is easy to install for parents and students at home and is user friendly. It is our intention that we will use this software to check in regularly with pupils and provide an opportunity for students to ask questions directly to the teacher. This will also provide a sense of routine and normalcy in these very irregular times as well as providing a great alternative to usual classroom teaching.

Handwashing routine

As of today, we have implemented a routine where Primary students will wash their hands under the supervision of the teacher in the correct manner as suggested by the World Health Organisation. This protocol will be triggered at the beginning of each break before food will be handled. Classrooms will also be equipped with hand sanitiser to supplement the handwashing routine.

In secondary school, the logistics are a little more difficult but at the beginning of each break, before handling food, the teacher will provide the students with a good squirt of hand sanitiser. Students will be instructed on good hand hygiene techniques and they will need to take some responsibility towards their own health practices. The soap dispensers at the College are plentiful, fully stocked and are available in many locations around the campus.

Please be assured that the school is working to **prepare for all contingencies**. We will ensure your child has all they need to continue their learning and achieve their learning outcomes. We will continue to update you as more information comes to hand.

Kind regards



Mike Curtis
Principal