



25 March 2020

PARENT UPDATE REGARDING COVID-19

Dear Parents and Carers

The Prime Minister's media release on 24 March, clearly articulated that in response to the rapidly increasing number of cases of COVID-19, further measures are required to slow down the number of people being infected by the virus. The College has been responding to these challenging times and supporting families by working hard on an effective transition to an off-campus delivery of education. We have been doing this while also catering for the learning needs of students who are attending school in parallel to the majority of students who are working from home. It is pleasing to receive the many emails from families acknowledging support of our wonderful staff and the capability of their sons being able to work from home.

We have reached the stage in the transition to a complete off-campus delivery, which has the potential to cater for an extended period of isolation, that we can share with families our plan for the remainder of the term. This plan is outlined as follows.

1. Most families have followed the NSW Premier's advice and are keeping their children home from school. We need to ascertain the number of students that will be required to attend school from Monday March 30 to Thursday April 9, to assist us in our planning. We ask families whose employment is in the provision of essential services as described by the government (and hence they are unable to keep their son at home) to complete the [online survey](#) by 6.00pm Thursday March 26.
2. Teaching and learning will continue to be delivered online for the remainder of the term as outlined in the advice to parents yesterday.
3. Our Information Services Department has commenced the process of distribution of loan laptops to students of Year 10 - 12 who have made a request.
4. On Monday March 30, the St Edward's staff will be trialling a work from home day. Supervision will be provided to those students who out of necessity must attend school and all students will complete their learning online. Teachers will be available throughout the scheduled lessons for the day to provide feedback and answer questions that students may have about their learning. This is an important step in the transition plan to a complete off-campus delivery as it will allow teachers to test their home technological working environment and the College to test support systems.
5. Commencing Tuesday March 31 through to the end of term, all teaching and learning will continue to be delivered in an online environment. From Tuesday March 31 until Friday April 3, teachers will be available online to answer questions and provide support to students during their scheduled period. Supervision will continue to be provided to students who, out of necessity, must attend school and they will also complete their learning online.





6. In the last week of term, Monday April 6 until Thursday April 9, supervision will continue to be provided to students who, out of necessity, must attend school. Teaching and learning activities will be available online for all students to complete during their timetabled periods. We will be trialling a new timetable that will be introduced during an extended period of isolation. This timetable will consist of mostly double periods to allow students greater opportunity to work through the project-based approach to online learning being adopted by several faculties. The updated student timetables will be accessible in the last week of term via the student portal. Throughout this week, teachers will be provided with much needed planning time, to develop teaching resources and participate in ongoing professional learning. This planning and professional learning will be completed by teachers in a combination of meetings at the College, working from home and an online meeting environment. This final stage is critical in facilitating the effective transition to a complete online delivery of teaching and learning for an extended period. Throughout this planning week, teacher availability will be limited, and they may not be in a position to respond to questions in a timely manner.

Further advice will continue to be provided throughout the remainder of the term and in the lead up to term 2.

I am very pleased to report that there are no reported cases of COVID-19 in the College community and I continue to pray that this remains. Please do not hesitate to contact me at principal@stedwards.nsw.edu.au if you have any questions or would like to discuss the information outlined in this letter.

Your sincerely

Mark Bonnici
College Principal

