

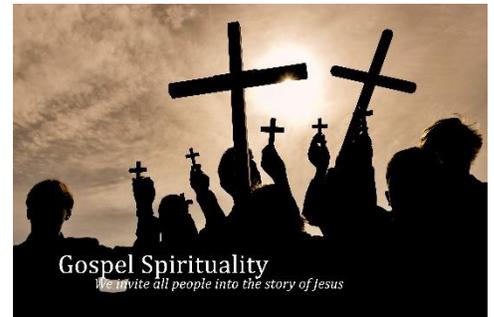


9 April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

A short Easter message of Hope.

As we finish the school term with Good Friday and the Easter weekend, it is important that we take time to reflect on the important sacred stories that underpin our faith and values. Easter and the sacred story of Jesus' death and resurrection is the most significant Christian festival and is centred on a message of hope. We are currently faced with a world that has changed dramatically before our very eyes, where phrases such as flattening the curve, self-isolation and social distancing have become part of our every-day language; a time when there is great questioning, uncertainty and anxiousness, as we fear for our families, friends and loved ones. It is during this time that the Easter message is more relevant than ever. Easter reminds us that amidst our fears for what lies ahead, we must draw on the resilience and strength of our human spirit and maintain great hope. Even though this Easter break will be different for many of us, as we are bound by the current social restrictions that are in place, we are encouraged to reach out in whatever way we can, to connect and share messages of joy, happiness and love for those that are dear to us. It is through this connectedness that we collectively raise the spirits of those around us.



I wish all our boys, families and members of our St Edward's community, a safe and happy Easter break. God bless and take care.

Term 2

We are currently planning to commence Term 2 with a continuation of home-based learning. Information will be shared with families in the second week of the school holiday break that provides greater detail regarding some of the learning, assessment, student engagement, community building and administrative procedures that will be introduced in anticipation that we continue home-based learning for an extended period. These procedures have been developed from the feedback that we have received from staff, students and parents during the early stages of the transition to online learning. With no clear statements yet made by the NSW Premier on the length of time home based learning will be in place, the College is working from the assumption that the current situation will continue for all of term 2.

Waterford

All families are aware of the integral nature of the St Edward's College Waterford Community Service program in the development of selflessness and care for others, in our boys. We believe that the current challenges we are faced with regarding isolation can also provide our boys with a great opportunity to complete their Waterford hours providing care and support for members of their family. For 2020, we encourage boys to complete fifteen Waterford hours in the home. Possible activities could include: contacting grandparents, family friends, isolated people or elderly neighbours to check on them, mowing lawns and gardening maintenance, helping siblings with reading, homework/schoolwork and spending time playing in backyard with them, learning to cook and preparing meals for the family, cleaning the home (not just their own room), looking after younger siblings if parents are at work or shopping, or connecting with family and friends overseas therefore



focusing on communication as a means to deal with social isolation. Parents are asked to sign off on their son's community service hours on the summary sheet available on the College Website or via this link [Waterford Project Summary Sheet](#).

Interim Reports

The Term 1 Interim Reports have been uploaded to the College Portal and are available to access. These reports are the first formal feedback provided to parents and students for the year. The focus of this report is to provide parents/carers and their son/s with specific information in relation to their level of application and effort to their studies and not on their performance in terms of a mark or grade. The descriptors in this report are based on the College's Code for Learning, which outlines the expectations of all students in relation to their learning. These reports are provided in Term 1 for students in Year 7-11 and Term 3 for students in Years 7-10. Year 12 students and parents will be provided with a report mid-way through Term 2 based on their performance on their Course assessments to date. Based on the recent advice from the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) in response to the move to Home Based Learning, we are devising a revised approach to HSC assessment and will share this with Year 12 students and families early in Term 2.

Yours sincerely

Mark Bonnici
College Principal