



17 March 2020

## PARENT UPDATE REGARDING COVID-19

Dear Parents and Carers

Catholic Schools NSW and NSW Department of Health and Education continue to provide the College with advice in relation to COVID-19. As the landscape continues to change in our response to the virus, and media reporting continues to provide debate, it is important that we communicate with parents the most recent advice we receive from these two important agencies.

We have continued to implement the changes to our routine as outlined in the previous correspondence. With the cancellation of all external excursions and sporting activities, we have also made alternate arrangements for our Friday timetable as the normal Friday afternoon activities can not go ahead. A normal six period day will be implemented, and classes scheduled for the day are already appearing on the student portal. Students are permitted to wear their sport uniform on Friday if they wish.

As advised by the NSW Department of Health, we will continue to take a strong stance on sending home staff and students who have symptoms of illness. We ask parents to monitor their son's and immediate family health. If concerns arise please keep your son home from school and seek medical advice. Teachers have been asked to monitor, not only themselves, but students in their classes and if a student presents at school unwell, appropriate staff are informed so that parents can be contacted. This approach is precautionary in nature and not intended to alarm members of the community and is in line with the current advice provided by the NSW Government Department of Health. There are currently no reported cases of COVID-19 in the College.

If a family makes the decision to keep their son at home as a precautionary measure, or if their son is demonstrating signs and symptoms and they are seeking advice from their own health practitioner, the normal procedures regarding student absence are required. Parents are required to contact the College to provide details for the absence via phone, email or SMS. Students can access any work required for completion via the Student Portal and parents have access to viewing this work via the Parent Portal. Teachers will not be setting individual work for students, but students are able to email their teachers if they have any questions regarding the set work.

There is still great conjecture as to whether schools will be required to close in NSW in response to COVID-19. Teachers are continuing to plan for this possibility and an extended meeting will be held for teachers this Friday morning to allow valuable planning time for the effective delivery of online learning. Students will be supervised by the College Leadership Team while this meeting takes place and classes will commence at the start of period two. We encourage all students to attend from the commencement of the day as per normal.

In the event the College is required to close for an extended period, students and families will be provided with clear guidelines and instructions on how online learning will be made available to ensure the continuity of teaching and learning. This advice will provide information about how to access online information, how parents





can support their son, the responsibilities of students, how best to set up the learning environment, how to monitor your son's mental health and screen time, communication with the College and teachers, and digital citizenship. We will endeavour to ensure that your son is provided with all the support that he needs.

### Advice from Bus companies

School and bus route services are currently operating as normal, however, should this change unexpectedly, our school bus operator, Busways, advises they will post updates of school and bus route services to its website. Parents are encouraged to regularly check the Busways website at [www.busways.com.au](http://www.busways.com.au) for updates and announcements regarding bus services for our school in case changes happen unexpectedly outside of school hours. Regular checks to the Busways website will ensure you have the most up to date information. The College will track any changes to service and inform parents appropriately.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on 4321 6400, if you have any questions or would like to discuss the information outlined in this letter.

Your sincerely

Mark Bonnici  
College Principal

