



23 March 2020

PARENT UPDATE REGARDING COVID-19

Dear Parents and Carers of Years 7 -11 students

The Federal Government announced late last evening that NSW Schools will remain open until the end of Term One. At a media conference this morning the NSW Premier, Gladys Berejiklian, explained that NSW schools would remain open until the end of term as schools consolidate their transition plan to an online learning environment. She continued to encourage parents to keep their children home from school if they are able to do so. In response to this decision, St Edward's College will continue to operate, however I understand that many families have chosen to self-isolate and I respect your decision in light of the extremely worrying times we are faced with. Depending on the level of student attendance over the coming days we may move to an alternate timetable in which students who are in attendance, and those at home, transition to an online delivery of teaching and learning.

Teaching staff have been working collaboratively in the development of an approach to online learning that will not only meet the educational needs of students, but also their well-being needs during a time of isolation. Over the next few days, all families will be provided with detailed information on the College's approach to online delivery with advice to parents and students to maximise learning during a period of isolation. Critical to the effectiveness of this method of delivery is home internet access. It is important over the coming days, that you contact me on principal@stedwards.nsw.edu.au, if your son does not have access to the internet, so that we can effectively plan educational continuity for him.

I will continue to provide families with up to date information throughout the transitioning phase and moving forward throughout an extended period of isolation. I thank all parents for their support and patience, and I encourage you to maintain contact with the College if concerns arise. The uncertainty that currently exists, fuelled by the constant media coverage, undoubtedly places stress on us all. The stress and anxiety are also being experienced by our boys. Constant communication is critical in gauging how young people are coping with the situation we are faced with. I encourage families to regularly discuss with their sons how they are feeling and processing everything that is happening around them. If any concerns arise, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Pastoral Leader, Mr Paul English the Director of Pastoral Care, or Mrs Terase Killin or Mr Marcus Missio-Spiteri, our College Counsellors, for assistance in supporting and caring for your son.

I can report that there are no reported cases of COVID-19 in the College community and I pray that this remains so as we all maintain our practices of personal hygiene and social distancing. Please do not hesitate to contact me on 4321 6400, or 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

