



2 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been wonderful to see the boys returning to school over the past two weeks and we are very pleased that we have now recommenced face-to-face classes on a full-time basis. I thank families for their ongoing patience and support during the difficult time that we have been responding to COVID-19. Where we are planning to continue our school days as normal, there are operational implications that must be considered due to the interruptions to our calendar and to ensure the ongoing safety of staff and students.

Hygiene, Cleaning and Safety Protocols

We are continuing to be vigilant in ensuring a hygienic and safe environment. Hand sanitising stations are located at several locations around the College and students are encouraged to regularly sanitise their hands, on arrival, before and after breaks and prior to boarding buses. Students will continue to wipe down their desks and laptops at the end of each lesson and cleaning staff will continue to work throughout the day, cleaning high-touch areas and bathroom facilities.

We continue to emphasise that students or staff who display any signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) are not permitted to attend school. The College will take a strong stance on sending home any staff member or student who presents with any of the signs and symptoms as per the Government Department of Health website advice:

- fever
- coughing
- sore throat
- shortness of breath

We are limiting the types of activities that the boys can participate in during break times, striking a balance between encouraging them to be physically active and reducing personal contact.

Action Plan in response to a member of the community testing positive to COVID-19

As widely reported in the media over the last two weeks, there have been schools that have been required to close for a short period due to a member of their community testing positive to COVID-19. We have established an action plan to implement in consultation with NSW Health, if a member of the St Edward's community tests positive and we are notified of this during school time. A positive notification may require the College to be closed to allow contact tracing and thorough cleaning of facilities. The following information summarises this plan.

1. Parents will be notified via SMS, email, the College App and Facebook that a member of the community has tested positive and the school is required to close immediately.
2. Classes will be suspended.
3. Senior students who drive to school and students who walk home will be permitted to make their own way home.
4. NSW Health has advised that no student will be permitted to travel home on College or public buses.
5. Students will be supervised in designated areas of the College in a physically distant manner and parents will be required to make arrangements to pick up their son/s from school as quickly as possible. It is hoped that this can be done within a two-hour period from notification.
6. Students will be permitted to use their mobile phones to coordinate their pickup time.
7. Parents are asked to meet their son/s at the Russell Drysdale St (lower) entry to the school. No student will be able to leave via the Frederick Street (top) entry as these gates will be locked.





8. No parents or members of the public will be permitted on site.
9. Additional staff will be redeployed to answering phone calls to assist this process.
10. Updates will continue to be provided via email throughout the day.
11. On the following day, students will recommence Home-Based Learning until the school becomes operational again.

If we are notified outside of school time, families will be notified via SMS, email, the College App and Facebook. Regular updates will follow, and students will recommence Home-Based Learning until the school becomes operational again.

We understand that it may be difficult for some families to pick up their son if we are required to implement this action plan and we ask that families discuss contingencies so that appropriate arrangements can be made. The accuracy of parent contact details is critical to the effectiveness of this plan. I therefore ask that parents check the accuracy of contact details on the Parent Portal ensuring that your most current details are listed.

Reports

The interruption to our normal calendar will mean that the Years 7-10 Semester One Reports will be completed and uploaded to the Student Portal early in Term 3 rather than at the end of Term 2. This will allow teachers to continue to teach and conduct assessment up until the end of the term providing students much needed time to consolidate their learning prior to assessment now that classes have commenced full time. Year 11 Preliminary Reporting will be unchanged. The next report that Year 11 students receive will be at the start of Term 4 when they have completed their Preliminary Courses. Year 12 students will receive their mid-course report at the end of this week and their Trial HSC Reports at the conclusion of the trial exams, which have now been moved back to Weeks 5 to 7 of Term 3.

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.

Yours sincerely

Mark Bonnici
College Principal