

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am aware that there may be some concern amongst our school community at the moment regarding the COVID-19 virus and the health of students.

Please let me reassure you that the safety and wellbeing of every one of our students is our highest priority.

We are working closely with Catholic Education Western Australia support staff and following the advice of the Department of Health, in dealing with risks posed by COVID-19. Our school is taking all reasonable measures to prevent the spread of the virus at school.

Basic Protective Measures

We encourage basic personal hygiene and health protocols. These include:

- Washing hands regularly
- Avoid touching your face
- Sneeze/cough into a sleeve, handkerchief or tissue (and dispose of the tissue responsibly)

Maintain social distancing wherever possible, by:

- Not shaking hands
- Not hugging

Travel

The Prime Minister has introduced measures placed on International arrivals into Australia. This means a mandatory 14-day, self-isolation requirement, effective from 15 March. This includes parents, contractors and school visitors.

Parents are asked to inform the College in situations of self-isolation.

Large Gatherings

As you would be aware, the Australian Government has announced all organised, non-essential gatherings attended by more than 500 people, must be cancelled from Monday 16 March 2020.

Schools have also been instructed that indoor gatherings of more than 100 are to be cancelled.

School events and activities

Given the directives which the College has received, many activities, excursions and camps need to be cancelled. This is unfortunate, but necessary. For example:

- All School camps
- The College Ball (we hope to reschedule to Term 3)
- The Year 12 Retreat
- The College Production (we hope to reschedule to Term 3)
- All school external sporting activities
- The College Open Morning
- Europe Tour (postponed)
- Drama Evenings
- Cross Country (postponed)

An updated College Calendar has been posted on the College website.

School Closure

Currently, the Government position is that schools will stay open and so we will comply with that directive. In the event of a directive from the Minister closing all schools, the College will endeavour to provide an online learning environment for students. The teachers have been working to set up an online learning platform using SEQTA and the Microsoft Teams/OneNote software, to communicate with students and to provide continued learning.

I would like to recognise the work of our teachers in doing extra work to prepare for the possibility of delivering learning material. They are currently delivering their normal lessons as well as doing extra preparation, in case.

Further Information

I have provided the following link from the Health Department, which has up to date information.

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/coronavirus-covid-19-resources>

Yours sincerely



Declan Tanham

Principal

18 March 2020