



Tuesday, 22 April 2020

Dear College Families,

I trust that you are enjoying a well-deserved break and hopefully enjoying some of the benefits of this unique season. Term 1, 2020 will be remembered for a long time to come for all of its various shades of light and dark but I am so thankful to our good, good Father who promises to work all things for His glory and our good (Romans 8:28).

You would be aware that since the conclusion of Term 1 several announcements have been made pertaining to the return of students to classrooms. I imagine that many of you have questions about what this may mean for Term 2 at Norwest Christian College. The purpose of this letter is to summarise the most recent announcements and provide some information relating to how they may influence our planning for Term 2. The Executive team will be meeting on Thursday to further develop our planning for Term 2. In the coming weeks I will communicate with you regarding the specifics of these plans including staggered arrival times, cleaning and social distancing measures, but at this stage we are waiting for more comprehensive advice from the AIS (Association of Independent Schools) and CSA (Christian Schools Australia) about how yesterday's announcement by the Premier will affect the independent sector.

### **Latest Announcements**

- 28 March - The 'National Cabinet' released a "Statement on Schools" reflecting the consensus view of the Prime Minister and Premiers and Chief Ministers at that time. For full details of this statement please see this [briefing](#).
- 16 April - National Cabinet "agreed with the AHPPC (Australian Health Protection Principal Committee) health advice that "on current evidence, schools can be fully open" along with the "practical guidance and advice" the AHPPC provided school leaders to even further reduce the "relatively low risk" of transmission in schools during the COVID-19 pandemic". National Cabinet also agreed to a series of [National Principles for School Education](#), released by the Prime Minister.
- 16 April - the NSW Premier, Gladys Berejiklian, said the government would be moving to get more children back in schools by week three of term two which begins on Monday, 11 May, which for us is Week 2 of Term 2.
- 21 April - the NSW Premier announced a staggered return to onsite provision from 11 May for a full onsite provision from Term 3.

### **Term 2 Planning**

Although the situation continues to evolve, we are endeavouring to make plans for Term 2 with the information and advice that is currently available to us. As always, our planning takes into account the following considerations:

- current health advice;
- the educational needs and best interests of College students;
- our duty of care obligations to students; and,
- our responsibilities to staff under workplace health and safety legislation.

What I can share with you now are some broad plans for Term 2.

- Week 1, commencing on Monday, 4 May - The College will continue to deliver online learning as per the last two weeks of Term 1.
- Weeks 2 - 5, commencing on Monday, 11 May - The College will offer increased face-to-face learning opportunities for students via the use of a roster system for K-10 students. In addition to this roster system for K-10 families, all of year 11 & 12 students will be given the opportunity to choose to return to the College to continue their learning in a face-to-face environment. Please note that whichever roster system we adopt to manage the safety of students and staff throughout this period, parents will continue to have the flexibility to choose whether or not they send their child to the College. The College will continue to offer quality online learning throughout this period.

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## **Health and Safety**

In all of our planning, the College remains committed to the health and safety of all College students and staff. To this end, the College regularly consults with governing bodies such as AIS, CSA and AHISA (Association of Heads of Independent Schools) and, with health and workplace safety authorities. These bodies regularly provide important information to the College about the risks and degree of harm related to COVID-19 and government recommended mitigation strategies that need to be applied by the College.

## **K- 12 Fee adjustments**

In acknowledgement of the impact that this crisis is having on families the College previously communicated the following decisions with respect to K-12 fees. Commencing Term 2:

- All families will be reimbursed \$105, the parent participation fees for Term 2, in recognition of the reality that all parents are participating at a significant level in the life of the College as they monitor online learning.
- All families will also receive a partial reimbursement of the curriculum resource levy in anticipation that the College will not have the need to access this fund for excursions throughout Term 2. The reimbursement will be as follows;
  - For each Primary student - \$207
  - For each Secondary student - \$ 303

This fee adjustment will be processed in the next fee statement.

## **Conclusion**

I want to conclude by stating how much we are missing seeing students and parents at the College. It is a very unusual experience to walk through empty corridors, having to strain to hear the evidence of online learning as very few students co-locate in one area of the campus. I also want to thank each family for their patience throughout this unprecedented time. We have been overwhelmed by the support and encouragement that we have received from families but we also understand the pressures that this experience has placed on each of you.

We are praying for you,



Felicity Marlow  
Principal