



Friday, 15 May 2020

Dear College Families,

It has been wonderful to have students return this week and to hear them express how much they have enjoyed being with their teachers and friends again. Staff too, have delighted in seeing their students back. Whilst Covid-19 has disrupted many of the normal rhythms of life there have also been some valuable lessons. One of those lessons has been born out of a renewed sense of the mutual dependency we have on one another. This period has therefore been an opportunity to realise afresh that what is truly important is "being with" those in our community.

I want to thank each member of the College staff who, throughout the last seven weeks, have done an exceptional job at delivering on our 3 key objectives; providing continuity of learning, care and connection. Staff have worked tirelessly, truly committed to serving this community.

Attendance Guidelines and Resumption of Face-to-face Learning

I write to you today as I begin to contemplate the appropriate time for the College to resume face-to-face teaching and learning. As student numbers increase over the next few weeks it may be possible to resume face-to-face mode earlier than we anticipated (which was Week 6, Tuesday, 9 June) for some classes and some subjects. For example, many of our Year 11 and 12 classes are now above 85% attendance and so it would be both appropriate and beneficial for those students to return to face-to-face learning very soon.

It is therefore imperative that parents understand the College's approach to attendance over the next few weeks. Essentially, we are encouraging students to return to the College as frequently as possible. In my previous letter I outlined a roster system that would facilitate a staggered return of students to the College. This staggered return has been beneficial this week in easing the transition for students back into the College. I also advised parents that the College would not be turning away any child who attends on days outside of their attendance schedule. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that message and actively encourage parents to consider the social, emotional and educational benefits of increased opportunities for face-to-face contact with teachers and peers.

The College acknowledges that at this stage parents still retain the right to choose whether or not they send their child and that each family has their own unique context. So, we ask that all families continue to engage with NSW Health advice, understand the College's position on attendance and consider the benefits of regular attendance at the College for their child when making attendance decisions.

Infection Control, Hygiene and Social Distancing

The following core messages from the Australian Health Principle Protection Committee (16 April, 2020) have informed our approach to infection control, hygiene and social distancing:

- *Message for parents: if your child is sick, they must not go to school. You must keep them at home and away from others. Remember to maintain physical distancing from other parents and teachers when attending school, including when dropping off and picking up your children.*
- *Message for children: tell your parent, guardian or teacher if you are feeling sick.*
- *Message for teachers: do not come to work if you are sick or in a vulnerable person category.*
- *Message for all adults: the greatest risk of transmission in the school environment is between adults. It is of upmost importance that teachers and parents alike maintain physical distancing between themselves and each other at school.*

To reduce the spread of viruses or germs the College is:

- *Operating a "Kiss 'n Go" routine in the Regent St carpark;*
- *Requiring adults and students to wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser when entering the College, and at regular intervals throughout the day;*
- *Ceasing activities that lead to mixing between classes and years;*
- *Cancelling school assemblies;*
- *Increasing the frequency of cleaning routines;*
- *Conducting lessons outdoors where possible;*

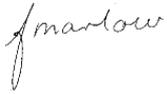
celebrating **40** years

- *Opening windows and adjusting conditioning for more ventilation; and,*
- *Promoting strictest hygiene among food preparation (Canteen) staff and their close contacts.*

Conclusion

We have finished this week with attendance at 46%. This is a great encouragement to us and we look forward to welcoming more students to the College in the coming days. Thank you again for your patience throughout this period. We are praying for each family.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "fmarlow".

Felicity Marlow
Principal