23 March 2020

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

COVID-19 update 23/3/2020

Last night the Prime Minister announced to the nation that schools are to remain open. We are happy to continue your children’s learning programs and keep them safe while at school.

The main purpose of this letter is to provide you with details about special arrangements the school is making regarding the COVID-19 situation.

Before I do so, I would like to make three requests:

- The Government is clear that we need to take social distancing seriously so only enter the school if it is essential. We will use phone calls to communicate rather than holding face-to-face meetings.
- Consider sending your son or daughter to school every day with recess and lunch so they avoid lining up for the canteen.
- Ensure students bring water bottles from home

In these very complex and changing circumstances, we appreciate the support and confidence parents are showing our school as we do our best to continue your children’s learning.

Year 12 subject teachers will be negotiating with their classes about whether they will continue face-to-face teaching on the days discussed below.

Professional Learning Day Friday 27 March / Student Free Day

Over the last week schools have been advised that the rapidly evolving COVID-19 situation could cause disruptions to schools. Our work as educators will not stop if students can no longer physically attend school. It is important we plan ahead so we can continue learning if our site closes for a period of time, or staff and students require a period of self-isolation. If we prepare well, we hope to minimise disruption to students’ learning. With this in mind, we are reallocating a scheduled professional learning day from later in the year to this coming Friday, 27 March. This has been approved by our Governing Council.

While we are very conscious of the need to continue our usual face-to-face teaching, we see a need to provide teachers with time to get on the front foot and prepare resources to continue learning if there is disruption to our usual operation. On Friday teachers will be:

- preparing flexible and adaptable units of work that can be sent home with students – in hard copy where required
- uploading activities and learning tasks to Daymap for online learning
- establishing learning intentions and processes for students to continue their learning, submit work and for teachers to provide feedback
- preparing home learning materials, for example subject learning resources, workbooks, excerpts from textbooks or other reading materials
- revisiting SACE subject outlines to look for and implement flexibilities in delivering and conducting assessments and assessment tasks
- testing potential on-line collaboration platforms

As a matter of urgency and to assist with our planning, each Home Group teacher will find out from students who do not have access to internet connection or a device at home.
We believe that providing time to put the above in place would help us to continue learning through these trying and unprecedented circumstances.

Parents/caregivers of Year 12 students please note the Berri, Barmera and Renmark bus service will not run Friday 27 March. All other buses will run.

If this short notice about the professional learning day closure is causing your family any difficulties please contact the school.

Parent/Teacher Interviews Monday 30 March and Tuesday 7 April

The Department for Education has also advised schools to use phone or other technology for parent teacher meetings. Based on this advice, and given that this is a unique situation, I regret to inform you that we are cancelling this term’s face-to-face parent/student/teacher interviews scheduled for Monday 30 March and Tuesday 7 April.

We will still finish school early at 1.30pm on Monday 30 March to provide teachers with time to make contact with relevant parents in lieu of parent/student/teacher interviews.

Alternative arrangements have been endorsed by our Governing Council and include:

- Parents/caregivers who received red traffic light data will be contacted by teachers via Daymap messages. A help sheet will be sent in a separate email.
- Parents/caregivers who received yellow traffic light data may be contacted by teachers via Daymap messages.
- Parents/caregivers who received green traffic light data will not be contacted.
- Parents/caregivers are strongly advised to check Daymap for teacher marks and comments.
- The PTO booking system has been suspended.
- The school will supervise students from 1.30pm until 3.15pm on Monday 30 March if requested by parents/caregivers.
- Our teachers are always happy to talk to parents/caregivers about their child’s learning and how we can best support them. Parents/caregivers who wish to make direct contact with staff are welcome to contact the front office. Front office staff will take a message that will be forwarded to the appropriate staff member who will contact the parent/caregiver by phone.

Please complete the reply slip below if you require your child to be supervised on Monday, and return it to the Home Group teacher.

Yours faithfully

DAVID GARRETT
PRINCIPAL

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Return this reply slip to the Home Group teacher.

Please complete if you require your child to be supervised at school on Monday 30 March.

My child ________________ HG ______ will require supervision on Monday 30 March from 1.30pm until the buses leave / school finishes.

________________________________________                ___________________________________                __________
Parent/caregiver name                            Parent/caregiver signature          Date