8 April 2020

Dear Parents/caregivers

**Term 2 Learning Arrangements update 08-04-2020**

Yesterday you received a letter forwarded from South Australia’s Minister for Education. He informed you that schools and preschools are an essential service. Public health advice from the senior experts around Australia remains that schools can, and should, stay open. He said we will continue to be guided by the health advice, and their recommendations on social distancing and hygiene practices in our classrooms and play spaces. Having said that, he has not changed his position that we support your choice if you prefer to keep your children at home during this time to avoid the spread of COVID-19.

The Minister also reminded parents/caregivers that despite anxieties school staff might have as members of the community, they are putting our students’ continued learning at the forefront. We appreciate the support you are continuing to show in return, including by keeping your children home on Friday 27 March and the four days of this week. This has given us some time to continue our preparation for teaching and learning students who are learning in an on-line environment, whether they are at in school or at home.

In my last letter, sent on Thursday 2 April I, I asked you to respond to a survey about your intentions for Term 2. The survey also asked about access to internet and devices at home. At the moment we have only received responses from 50% of our families. We will email the link again so that parents/caregivers are able to respond if you haven’t done so already.

In that letter I also provided you with some initial information about:
- Our early thinking concerning how we will organise learning in Term 2. We have been working hard on this during the four student free days this week
- Learning on-line and learning at home
- Maintaining mental health and wellbeing

You are able to access parent information prepared by the South Australian Department for Education on its website at https://www.education.sa.gov.au/our-learning-sa. This includes a section on frequently asked questions.

Also refer to the attached list of Parent/Children Webinars for further information and support.

**Buses**

Transport Services have confirmed that bus services should be operating as normal at the beginning of Term 2. However if it is known that there will be no students using a bus then these services may not operate. While this may raise questions for some families we need to be patient to find out which students will be learning at school.

**Resolving online access issues**

We can be contacted by parents and students who are having on-line access problems.

**Learning at school and learning at home**

We will send you more information about how learning will work at Loxton High School in Term 2, in the form of a student/parent guide that will be distributed during the school holidays.

In the meantime, I will share a few details about what we have been planning.
All learning is being shifted on-line. Students who are at school or at home will be learning exactly the same thing. Paper copies will be available to families without internet or devices on request.

It is still our priority to continue to run our Year 11 and 12 classes. Students who are learning at school will use the on-line materials and assessments with their usual teachers. Students who are at home are able to contact their teachers for help and support using the platforms as indicated on the attached list. Some teachers will be using Microsoft Teams so they are able to do some face-to-face teaching, or talk to students in class groups.

The schedule below indicates that each morning our Year 8 to 10 students will study English, Maths and Science as Core Studies using a set timetable that students who are learning at home can also follow. Lesson material and learning tasks will be available. During a scheduled lesson specialist teachers will be available on-line to respond to questions via MS Teams. Students who are learning in school will be supervised by support teachers who will assist but refer students to the specialist team when needed.

It is our intention to continue to use Daymap as our learner management system for years 8 to 12 where assessment tasks are to be submitted and results published.

In the middle of the day, Year 8 to 10 students at school will undertake physical activities conducted by our Physical Education staff. Students at home are welcome to do similar activities at home or others that make sense in the home environment.

In the afternoon these students will opt into ‘Capability Builders’ which are short, practical courses that last from two to four weeks. All students will be required to undertake a unit based on the Child Protection Curriculum.

Students learning at home need to ‘attend’ by completing work every day and submitting what is required for assessment. Assessment Tasks will be submitted to Daymap and results published.

Teachers will monitor students who do not attend by engaging in the learning program. Home Group teachers will contact parents when students do not attend or do not submit work. We will make every effort to hold students accountable.

We do not expect you to be teachers but we will appreciate parents monitoring what students are doing at home and giving support where you are able.

Your support will be especially valuable if you follow up work that hasn’t been submitted if you are contacted by a teacher.

Home Groups will meet via Microsoft Teams for two sessions each week, Tuesday and Thursday.

Students with additional needs will receive regular personal contact by a teacher or SSO to check their progress and offer support. Our Learner Support and Wellbeing staff are working out ways to best make this happen while still following the Department for Education’s ‘Protective Practices’ that guide the way that staff interact with students.

As we are still working on the details, any changes to any of the points above will be advised through the student/parent guide.

**Daily schedule**

Students who are working from home might choose to follow this schedule, but as I wrote in my last letter, during a usual school day students are not expected to sit glued to a computer for hours on end. Teachers vary learning activities so that students move, interact and do practical as well as screen or paper based activities.

I have been hearing stories of students at home generating their own schedules that fit around home based activities. This makes common sense. The important point is that students should have a schedule. They should also know when specialist staff will be available on line to answer questions and provide support.
Subject specialists will be available online at the times indicated on the sample schedule below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:45-9:00am</td>
<td>Year level check</td>
<td>Home Group</td>
<td>Year level check</td>
<td>Home Group</td>
<td>Year level check</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesson 1</td>
<td>Year 8: Maths</td>
<td>Year 9: English</td>
<td>Year 10: Science</td>
<td>Year 8: English</td>
<td>Year 9: Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesson 2</td>
<td>Year 8: English</td>
<td>Year 9: English</td>
<td>Year 10: Science</td>
<td>Year 8: English</td>
<td>Year 9: Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesson 3</td>
<td>Year 8: Science</td>
<td>Year 9: Maths</td>
<td>Year 10: Maths</td>
<td>Year 8: Maths</td>
<td>Year 9: Maths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Capability Builders</td>
<td>Capability Builders/ PLP</td>
<td>Capability Builders</td>
<td>Capability Builders/ PLP</td>
<td>Capability Builders/ PLP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some parents/caregivers might be wondering why we are not running our usual school timetable. There are three main reasons why we have opted for this model:

1. **We expect more staff absences and therefore cannot rely on your children’s usual teachers always being there.** It will not be viable to ensure learning continuity and have enough relief teachers to provide cover.

2. **Where we are able to accommodate, teachers who are particularly vulnerable may be able to work from home.** They will provide valuable service, but we will still need to provide supervision for students who are learning at school. Again, this will put pressure on our staffing, so we need to operate in a different way.

3. **The demands of teaching students at school as well as those at home will mean extra work for teachers who are still learning how to operate in this new on-line environment.**

To maintain our commitment to our Year 11 and 12 students being taught by their usual teachers in their normal time slots for as long as possible, Year 8 to 10 students will be taught within cohorts of students by teams of teachers. We will still keep students connected with each other and with teachers, but it will work differently until we are able to resume our usual operation.

Again I want to say how much we appreciate what you are doing during this very complex and difficult time. I wish you all the best as you navigate your way through the challenges ahead to keep your families and yourselves safe.

Yours faithfully

DAVID GARRETT
PRINCIPAL