Dear Parent/Caregiver,

Re: Return to the usual Semester 1 timetable on Monday 11 May

Key points
- Resumption of the usual Semester 1 timetable at the beginning of Week 3 due to more families sending students back to school
- We will continue to offer remote learning for students learning from home, including making paper copies, available to those without access to devices or the internet at home
- Learning at school means returning to our usual class routines
- While we are resuming our usual Semester 1 timetable, we are still following Department for Education requirements and health advice related to COVID-19
- We will not be issuing traffic light data in Week 5, and Year 8 – 10 reports will include assessment of work completed in Weeks 1 and 2

As you are aware, the first two weeks of Term 2 has been different to our usual program due to being catered for students who are learning at school as well as those who are learning from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To manage the situation we developed a remote learning model based on flexible, online learning. This has meant our Year 8 to 10 students and teachers have been learning and working very differently. We are proud of what they have achieved while responding to this situation. The dedication, collaboration and creativity of our staff has also been outstanding as they have endeavoured support all students with their learning, regardless of the chosen mode of delivery. We have greatly appreciated the support from families of students who have been learning from home.

It is very heartening to note South Australia has achieved a decrease in active cases and a flattening of the COVID-19 curve, which has encouraged more families to send children back to school. Guidelines from the Department for Education, based on the advice from SA Health and Australia’s expert health body the AHPPC, state that with low rates of infection in South Australia, parents are encouraged to send their children to school. During this week we have enjoyed welcoming growing numbers of students back to onsite learning, with approximately 75% of students now attending.

After carefully considering the situation, we believe it will be timely to return to our usual Semester 1 timetable at the beginning of next week, which is Monday 11 May.

We know students will enjoy returning to their original teachers, classrooms and personal timetables. We also expect teachers will use digital platforms more often and offer online resources.

Remote learning
We understand that family circumstances mean some parents will choose to continue students learning from home, so we will continue to offer remote learning. Students will be able to access some online resources, however as we move away from our online flexible learning model, the carefully designed packages and high level online support offered in the first two weeks of term will not be offered in the same way. Flexible online learning offered over the last two weeks was designed to allow teachers time and options to provide a greater level of online support than is possible while on full teaching loads.

Remote learning will be made easier by teachers providing brief lesson instructions on Daymap. Teachers will also upload some learning materials to MS Teams, Google Classroom,
or other digital platforms to support the Daymap instructions. Paper copies can be made available to students learning from home without access to devices or the internet.

While the Department for Education continues to support students learning from home, teachers will offer ‘live’ Home Group sessions once each week. They will send meeting invites via MS Teams to let students know when the live HG lesson will occur. Some teachers will offer some ‘live’ learning online. We will continue to monitor those students learning from home who are particularly vulnerable by making regular contact.

Learning at school
In many ways learning at school, or learning remotely at home will not look very different to how we usually operate. Home Group and subject teachers will follow up students who are not engaging in teaching and learning programs. Home Group teachers will monitor the learning and wellbeing of students whether they are learning at school or at home.

Please note that while we are now able to return to our usual routines, we are now well placed, should the need arise, to use the platforms, processes and skills we have now developed to ensure students are able to continue their learning.

Department for Education requirements and health advice
While we are returning to our usual timetable, we are not returning to the pre-COVID-19 situation. The Department for Education expects schools to restrict certain activities and maintain sanitary conditions. While social distancing limits are not deemed to apply to classrooms and corridors, where possible, parents are encouraged to not to come onto the school site with phone or other technology being used for parent teacher meetings. Social distance should be considered for activities that involve touching such as contact sports and physical education. The department also recommends schools minimise large group activities and continue to cancel camps and excursions. Students or staff who are unwell and reasonably suspected to have a communicable disease, should still stay away from school until they are cleared by a doctor to return. The immunisation program has been deferred until Term 3.

Having said the above, we are looking for ways to provide additional activities for students. For example, we will be recommencing our volleyball program and a number of other activities that do not involve physical contact. We will closely monitor Department for Education advice as we consider opening more opportunities.

Traffic light information and Year 8 - 10 reporting
We usually send home traffic light data at the end of Week 5 each term. Given the disruption to classes late in Term 1 and at the beginning of Term 2, we have decided to not produce this information in Term 2 as it would not provide an accurate summary.

We intend to report on the Year 8 - 10 work from the first two weeks, in this term’s Semester Reports. It is important that students continue with their learning programs over the next few days.

I will continue to communicate with families and provide updates as we receive them. Thank you again for your ongoing support of your children and Loxton High School.

Yours faithfully

DAVID GARRETT
PRINCIPAL