13 May 2020

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Resumption of the Semester 1 timetable with the usual teachers and classes

It was wonderful to begin this week with many more students learning at school with their usual teachers and classes. Department for Education advice is that with the current low infection rates students are encouraged to return to school. Attendance at school has now reached 88%. We will continue to respect the preferences of parents, so remote learning is being provided for students who are learning at home. There is no information at this stage about when all students will no longer be able to learn from home.

Inform the school about student absences

As usual, we ask parents and carers to communicate with Home Group teachers when students are ill or have family commitments. We would also appreciate you advising the school if the student is discontinuing learning from home to help us monitor student attendance.

As the majority of students have returned to learning at school we are using the following approach to marking rolls.

- Students who we are aware are continuing with learning from home will be marked as ‘H’ (Home Study) until the end of each week. We will continue with this, week by week, until all students have returned on site.
- Any of these students who return to school will be marked as attending.
- Normal absence/roll marking procedures will apply once students have returned to school, eg Ill, Family or, Unexplained.
- It is therefore important to let the school know if a student is returning to studying at home so they can be marked with an ‘H’.
- After 3 consecutive days of unexplained absence, Home Group teachers will contact parents/carers.

Remote learning

As I mentioned above, we are continuing to provide remote learning:

- Teachers will provide brief lesson instructions on Daymap for each lesson.
- Teachers will also upload learning materials on the chosen digital platform to support the lesson instructions on Daymap. Teachers will instruct students about the appropriate digital platform.
- Where possible, teachers will provide opportunities for students learning at home to meet the same achievement or performance standards as those learning at school.
- Paper copies may be provided for students at home without access to the internet and/or computers.
Teachers will follow up students who are not engaging in their teaching and learning programs, whether they are learning at school or at home.

Home Group teachers will monitor the learning and wellbeing of all students and follow up accordingly.

Home Group teachers will run one ‘live’ morning HG session per week if they have students who are learning from home. Teachers will advise students when this is to occur through an MS Teams meeting schedule.

Teachers will make decisions about delivering online lessons if or when feasible.

**Department for Education instructions and health authority advice**

We are mindful that even though South Australia has commenced Stage 1 of our roadmap for easing COVID-19 restrictions, public schools still need to follow Department for Education instructions, which are based on advice from health authorities. We are still being encouraged to use social distancing. I have reminded students about this in the student bulletin. To reduce congestion at the canteen, we are continuing to send Year 8 and 9 students to recess 5 minutes earlier, and Year 10 and 11 students 5 minutes earlier for lunch. We still need to restrict people who visit the school by using phone or other technology for meetings with parents or other non-essential meetings. I am monitoring department advice about school activities. Despite the easing of restrictions described in the South Australian Government roadmap, advice has not changed that schools must put camps, excursions, sports carnivals, school assemblies, presentation nights and school formals on hold. We are continuing our additional cleaning schedule and we still have good supplies of hand sanitiser for students and teachers to use.

Loxton High School staff are providing the best possible learning opportunities despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. We thank you for your ongoing support and look forward to continuing our partnership with you over the coming weeks and months.

Regards

[Signature]

DAVID GARRETT
PRINCIPAL