



PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Wednesday, 18 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As you will be aware, the information and advice from the Federal and State Governments and the Department of Health of WA, relating to Covid 19 continues to evolve.

Student and Staff Health a Main Priority

The current focus is on minimising and preventing transmission and making sure that the school system is prepared for a possible case.

If there is a confirmed case of Covid 19 at the College, the Chief Health Officer will provide advice on temporary school closure while tracing of exposure takes place. A thorough clean would also be carried out to make the College safe for the return of students and staff. We have plans in place to enact a temporary closure if necessary.

The Federal Government has introduced a mandatory 14-day self-isolation requirement on all international arrivals into Australia with effect from 9pm (WST) on Sunday, 15 March. From Monday, 16 March, Western Australian schools were required to introduce new precautionary measures.

As with all Australian travellers, students who return from international travel must self-isolate for 14 days. Students living in the same residence as a self-isolating person MUST ensure they do not have any contact with that individual. If the person self-isolating displays symptoms associated with the Covid 19 virus, students must stay at home until a negative test result is confirmed. If students are unwell for any reason, please do not send them to school.

All international school travel and non-essential interstate school travel has been cancelled until further notice.

Large Gatherings and Social Distancing

As advised in a recent communication to parents, under the direction of the Australian Government, the College has cancelled all organised, non-essential gatherings involving more than 500 people. This includes swimming and sports carnivals, liturgical celebrations, assemblies and other events. A number of events and gatherings involving less than 500 people have also been cancelled to minimise risk, eg the Year 8/9 Parent Information Forum and the Parent Voice Cheese and Wine Evening. In line with overnight information, other indoor gatherings involving 100 people or more have also been cancelled.

Information regarding hygiene and social distancing is being shared and discussed with students. To encourage appropriate social distancing, from tomorrow (Thursday, 19 March), students will be required to wear their sports uniform to school on days when they have Physical Education, Dance or Drama lessons, so avoiding the need to use the school change rooms to change into their sports or dance/drama uniform.

Please Note:

Dance pants cannot be worn all day, and should be replaced with the College sports shorts before and



after Dance lessons.

School Closures and Continuity of the Teaching and Learning Program

Governments at national and at a state level agree that there is no need to close schools as a pre-emptive measure at this point.

However, there is the potential for schools to be temporarily closed in the future to contain and prevent further spread of the virus.

We understand the potential impacts that a temporary closure may have on our community and ask that together, we are as prepared as possible for such an eventuality. In the event of school closure, plans are being developed to enable the College to continue to deliver high quality education. Staff are currently developing a series of online lessons to ensure continuity of student learning. These lessons will be available on the SEQTA learning platform. Students who are currently absent from school can access lesson details as usual on SEQTA. Students will be provided with the necessary guidance to prepare for more extensive online learning during lessons this week. A presentation shared with students today will be available on the College website in the Covid 19 update tab. Parents will be kept informed regarding this unfolding situation via email and on the College website in the Covid 19 update tab.

Yours sincerely
Karen Prendergast
Principal