

Coronavirus Update – Thursday 26th March

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff,

I'm now wishing that I didn't say yesterday was a quiet one!!

There are a lot of things to be communicated in this update so get a cuppa first, take a deep breath and read on!

NEXT WEEK (30th March to 3rd April)

The State Government today announced that next week (commencing Monday 30th March) is a pupil free week. This is designed to give schools and teachers time to plan and resource for an online environment for students. Teachers will not be teaching but we will be providing supervision for children of parents who are considered to be in essential services or for vulnerable students (e.g. those living in out-of-home care). Essential workers are those that must currently continue to attend their workplace during this difficult time

The break for students will begin Monday 30 March, with students to return to school on Monday 20 April 2020, unless parents and carers are otherwise notified.

Please note that as the holiday break is now beginning on Monday next week, teaching and learning will also cease as of tomorrow afternoon, Friday 27 March, 2020. This includes both classroom and online learning until after the holiday period. Therefore, students who attend school will only be supervised and not taught any content.

For Students Attending Next Week

In assisting us to plan for the supervision requirements of next week, [please complete this survey](#). We really need to know how many children we can expect to ensure there is adequate supervision is available!

- Prep to Year 4 are to wait in the Shelter Shed on arrival (social distancing applies);
- Years 5 to 9 are to wait in the Shelter Shed on arrival (social distancing applies);
- Years 10 to 12 sign in at Student Reception and then go to The Hub (social distancing applies).

Tuckshop Next Week

The [Snack Shack](#) will continue to operate next week but with a somewhat reduced menu. You are encouraged to pre-order through Flexi-schools to avoid missing out! Scroll through the link above for both menu and access to Flexi-schools.

Buses For Next Week

Both Sunbus and the Ryan Bus will continue to operate as normal at this stage.

Learning Next Week

Teachers will not be teaching next week. Teaching and learning will cease as of tomorrow afternoon, Friday 27 March, 2020. This includes both classroom and online learning until after the holiday period. Therefore, students who attend school will only be supervised and not taught any content.

Prep to Year 6 will be provided with "Screen free activities" and these will be communicated to you tomorrow.

Years 7 to 12 are able to complete the work in their current Google Classrooms so that they are up to date in their units. Assignments should be completed and submitted through Turnitin (Yrs 8-12), electronically if that is able with other assessment pieces (practicals, Yr 7, etc.) dropped into Student Reception. Revision of work and preparation for Term 2 can also be undertaken.

TERM TWO

The precise arrangements for week 1 of Term 2 will be advised closer to that time and will be guided by the advice of health and other authorities. It is likely that schools will need to remain operational at the start of Term 2 for those parents who are in essential services and may need to send their children due to work commitments (unless their child is sick) or because the student is vulnerable (such as those living out of home).

We will confirm the specific arrangements for Term 2 as soon as we are able to do so. To assist with our initial Term 2 planning, a survey will be sent to all our parents and carers, similar to the survey above, in the second week of the Easter holiday, to ascertain if you anticipate that you will need to send your child/ren to school from week 1 of Term 2. This will assist us to make appropriate arrangements to plan for students who may need to attend school.

Learning@Home @Ryan

We have undertaken a fairly massive task of developing an online learning environment for all children across the College. It is technology based and has Google Classrooms as it's repository of content and resources. We will launch the site in the week before Term Two commences. Teachers will spend next week preparing the work for students to access.

Student Devices

All students in Years 8 to 12 presently have their own device with which to access learning. These devices are vital for them to engage in the online Learning@Home@Ryan.

Students in Prep to Year 7 will also need a device (laptop, desktop, iPad, Chromebook, etc.) to access the online environment.

The College has a limited supply of Chromebooks that will be made available to students IF parents and carers have no other device that the child can access at home. There will be a contract signed between parents and school prior to providing you with a Chromebook. This gives direction about usage, damage, etc. It is anticipated that these devices will be available in the last week of the school holiday. More information will follow next week.

SENIOR STUDENT ASSESSMENT REDUCTIONS

This information is from the Qld Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) chairman, Brian Short, this morning...

"We have decided to remove one internal assessment from the total of four prescribed in each syllabus. This will provide some relief for students as they contend with uncertainty and disruption while working towards their Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) in 2020. It will also support teachers to manage reduced classroom time.

In the next few weeks, the QCAA will provide schools with direction on how they should adjust what is taught and the nature and timing of other assessments. There will be some flexibility to accommodate the specific needs of subjects — both General and Applied — but across-the-board adjustment is necessary to ensure the assessment experience is as equitable as it can be for all students.

Students can be assured that they will still receive fair subject results based on fewer than the four assessments mandated in syllabuses. Their parents and carers, and their teachers, can draw comfort from the QCAA's commitment to listen and respond to their concerns as we negotiate the ongoing challenges this year will bring."

SCHOOL FEES

As the College will continue to operate and our staff will be required to keep working to provide continuity of teaching and learning, including under the potential Learning@Home @Ryan arrangements, tuition fees for Term 2 will be charged as normal.

Our College is aware that, with a local economy heavily dependent on tourism and travel as well as international education, there are already significant local economic impacts. **If your family is suffering financial distress** as a result, I strongly encourage you to discuss this with Lucy Royes, our College Business Manager. Our College will continue to provide support, including fee relief for families in genuine financial distress.

COMMUNICATIONS

I anticipate that the circumstances and arrangements for the College and community will continue to change and develop as this COVID-19 scenario unfolds further. We will continue to keep you up-to-date as often and as quickly as we can.

Please do not believe things about our College unless it comes from the College.

THANKYOU

I would like to end this lengthy update by simply saying a heartfelt thank you to each of you for your support, patience and understanding as, together, we step into this uncharted territory. I truly appreciate that there is angst, stress, fear and uncertainty. I hope that through my communications and updates that a small part of that is relieved.

I do want to say a massive thanks to the staff of the College who have accepted the challenge of this situation and have sought to provide your children with the best of experiences and learning throughout this time. I am indeed proud to stand with them as we forge into some exciting opportunities of an unknown future.

I don't have many answers but what I know, I'll share with you...for we are in this together!

Martha Cleary once said, *"The future is not a place to which we are going. It is a place we are creating. The paths to it are not found but made and the activity of making them, changes both the maker and the destination."*

Stay safe and look after one another,



David McNeale (College Principal)