

Coronavirus Update – Tuesday 31st March

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff,

There are **two very important items** to be mentioned and actioned by you in tonight's update! Both items are outlined below and a Google Form is linked below that will seek your consent and input.

The first is for you to be aware of the online learning environment all schools are moving into and for you to give consent for your child/ren to participate in this. The second is for each family with children from Prep to Year 7 (students in Years 8-12 have BYOD) to register their request for a College owned device with which to connect to this online environment.

But first a little about our College online environment (Learning@Home@Ryan). At Ryan, we have been using the Google Classroom platform to supplement in-class learning for a number of years. As students are already familiar with this platform, our home learning program is supported by a series of Google Classrooms. Students are enrolled in a Classroom for each home learning subject, and are required to check into their Classrooms as scheduled on each school day. This [Parents Guide to Google Classroom](#) is a great start to understanding this environment.

In senior secondary year levels, ongoing face-to-face and interactive learning will be provided via Zoom. Regular lessons are scheduled for these subjects, and students are required to participate in these Zoom sessions.

To provide structure for ongoing, effective learning, each year level will be provided with a timetable. With the exception of Zoom sessions, which require students' attendance at specific times, the times specified on these timetables serve as guidelines. Students may commence learning activities earlier or later than the scheduled times. It is, however, important that students spend the required *amount* of time on each subject area.

Parents and students will also have access to supplementary learning ideas and resources. Timetabled learning accounts for only part of the students' learning time. The supplementary activities allow students to strengthen core skills in a self-paced and self-guided manner. Parents are encouraged to work with their children to identify appropriate self-guided learning activities that suit their individual learning needs.

1. **ONLINE LEARNING CONSENT:** Due to Covid19, Ryan Catholic College will be providing opportunities for students to engage in online learning through our ***Learning@Home@Ryan*** site using Google Classrooms. As part of this learning opportunity, teachers may arrange online video conferencing with students or provide pre-recorded video's for students to conduct lessons or engage with students as part of our commitment to pastoral care and the development of community. All communications with students must be through the school sanctioned communication tools. To enable engagement in online learning with teachers, parents must provide consent for this to occur AND be responsible for supervision whilst the engagement online is occurring.

Please be aware that non-consent will greatly reduce the amount of learning resources and activities made available to your child.

It is expected that all students:

- Will be dressed in appropriate clothing (covering shirts and shorts/skirts on);
- Ensure that they are in an open part of the house (no bedrooms or private spaces);
- Be mindful of the background in which they are broadcasting from ie: noise, family members, animals etc;
- School staff are NOT to be contacted via social media or platforms, private email or student private mobile.

Townsville Catholic Education will be monitoring and reviewing any issues associated with online learning and video conferencing. Please report any identified issues to the Principal.

[The Google Form will ask you to consent \(or not\) to your child's participation in this online environment.](#)

2. **COLLEGE DEVICE REQUEST:** The College owns a number of Chromebook devices that are already extensively used by students from Prep to Year 7. There are, however, not sufficient numbers to provide one to every student in these year levels.

Where a family has a current device (laptop, desktop, etc) that can be used by children it is hoped that that can continue to be used by them to engage with this online environment. Where there are multiple siblings, it may be possible to share this current home device between them throughout the day.

It is important to remember that the online environment will provide a portion of the child's direct education throughout any given day. There will be other non-screen activities, revision, etc that they will also be expected to engage with. For example, Prep may have up to 7 hours/week online, Year 3 up to 13.5 hours/week, Year 6 up to 17.5 hours/week, with secondary students progressively having more online time.

A Loan Agreement form will need to be completed and signed by the parent/carer prior to any device leaving the College.

I ask that you give careful consideration to your request for a College device. Please, only request if it is absolutely necessary to have one and where there is no home device available to be used. We have limited availability of these devices!

The Google Form will ask you to request a Chromebook AND to list your children's names and grades.

Please now complete the **GOOGLE FORM** for consent and device request.
(form to be completed no later than Thursday 2nd April at 11.00pm).

NEW

1. A **Coloured Clothes Day** (as bright as possible!) will be held this Friday for those students attending.
2. In preparation for online learning in Term 2, **all students are encouraged to collect necessary items (exercise books, pencils, etc) from classrooms or lockers prior to Friday.**

REMINDERS

1. The College Music Tour to Western Qld in late May has been postponed.
2. Arts Showcase, originally scheduled for 18th May, has been postponed.
3. Snack Shack operates as normal with a reduced menu at times. You are encouraged to pre-order through Flexi-schools to avoid missing out!
4. Buses (Sunbus and College) will run as normal.

Stay safe,

David McNeale (College Principal)