

Coronavirus Update – 25 June

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff,

It's hard to believe that Term 2 is nearly over. As I reflect on the term, I can safely say that it's been a term like no other and one I'm sure no one wants to experience again. COVID-19 certainly presented us with unprecedented challenges and changes. At times, we felt overwhelmed, anxious, scared, uncertain, stressed, etc. wondering what life was going to look like tomorrow, next week and in the months ahead. During the time of reduced physical interaction, event cancellations and intense media coverage, we managed to maintain a sense of normalcy as best we could.

The success of online learning at home and at school would not have been possible without everyone's patience, persistence and resilience. A heartfelt thanks to the staff for their incredible and amazing work in this space. They embraced the challenge, rose to the occasion and ensured that students' learning continued and reflected the school day as much as possible. This was evident in an email I received last week when a parent commented:

"The teacher was very in touch with my child's struggles and went above and beyond to voice record the Powerpoint presentations and any other reading and instructions during online learning. It would've taken so much extra time to do this, particularly at a time when they were already stretched."

This is what our teachers do and always with the students' best interests in mind.

Thank you to parents/carers for stepping into the role of 'teacher' overnight, adapting to the significant change, guiding your child/ren through the process and balancing home and work commitments at the same time. Congratulations on a job well done.

My Book About Coronavirus

Here's a [link](#) to a fabulous free downloadable social story about the challenges and experiences of COVID-19, written by Rosie Martin and beautifully illustrated by artist KB Song. It gently shares the messages of this time we have lived through and the tensions we still hold. It's suitable for primary students and secondary students with lower-level language. It's also suitable for families to share at home.

Athletics Carnivals

- Years 11 and 12 students will be completing all their events in rotations on Friday 26 June.

- The Junior Campus Athletics Carnival has been postponed until Term 3.

Retreats / Camps / Tours

- The Year 6 Retreats have been rescheduled for Weeks 4 and 5 next term. More information will be shared closer to the time.
- There's a possibility that the Year 7 Camp that was postponed for Connolly and Griffin House members in Term 1 (due to predicted bad weather that didn't eventuate!) will take place in Term 4.
- The Year 8 Retreat scheduled for Week 1 next term has been postponed. Students will still participate in Retreat days but they will take place in Term 4. These days will likely take place at the College.
- The arrangements for the Year 11 Camp scheduled for 15-17 July at Mungalli have changed. The leadership activities will now happen at school, Pallarenda and Paluma on the same dates.
- At this stage, the Year 12 Retreat is still going ahead as planned on 11-14 August.
- Alternative dates are being discussed for the Music Tour to happen later in the year.

Report Cards

Prep to Year 11 report cards will be issued early in Term 3. Year 12 report cards were posted two weeks ago.

Support for Families

The St Vincent de Paul Society has received significant funding from the Federal and State Governments to help people through the COVID 19 crisis. They are happy to assist families and individuals who have been impacted financially by the pandemic and can assist with education, medical, rent and utility bills. SVDP is also able to provide people with food vouchers, clothing, furniture and household items. If you're in need of support please ring 1800VINNIES.

Support with School Fees

If you're concerned about your school fees, please don't hesitate to contact the College on 4773 0100 to discuss ways we can assist.

Health and Hygiene

If students or staff are unwell they must stay home. Please remind children of the importance of good hand washing (20 second rule) and coughing/sneezing hygiene.

Well-Being

Life is so busy for everyone during the school term (maybe not so much this term), it's a constant rush and sometimes it's hard to catch your breath. As adults, we forget children need a break too. This is particularly important at the end of each term. Cramming holidays

full of fun activities, doesn't give anyone a chance to be still. It's in the stillness that you can process what's happened during the past term and think about what lies ahead. This process of reflection is very important for children.

Having 'do nothing' or 'lazy' days gives everyone in the house a much-needed chance to simply stop and relax. Quieter days around the house, lazy mornings and casual afternoons (e.g. reading a book, cooking/baking, gardening, bike riding, etc.) allows everyone to slow down. It's recommended that children have down time to get bored, reflect and do nothing – to recharge their body, mind and soul. These experiences will help them be well-prepared for next term.

If you have any concerns about your child's well-being, please reach out to their classroom/Homeroom teacher for support. We're only too happy to help.

In closing, thank you for your support throughout this 'roller-coaster' term, have a great holiday and see you in Term 3.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paula Duffy".

Paula Duffy
Acting Principal