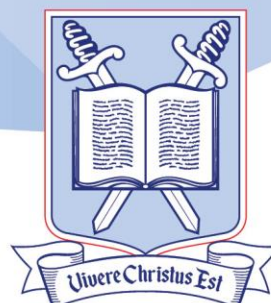


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St Paul's
Catholic College
Booragul

27 March 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

COVID-19 Update No. 10.

We have made it to Friday. I have just had briefings with all our staff and I have passed on the words of gratitude that many of you have sent in via all sorts of methods. Thank you – your words of encouragement and care mean so much to our St Paul's Community as we all journey together.

From Monday, we will be rostering our teaching staff to work from home for a number of days during the week and then being on site for the other days. This is in line with the Federal Government position to try to have 80% of the workforce working from a home environment.

This means that on any given day, we will have teachers from every key learning area on site. We will also have Learning Support staff on site as well. The first point of call for concerns and questions is still the class teacher via email or other contact methods that have been established.

Teachers network with other teachers all around the world. It was interesting that in Canada in one of the provinces, the Head of Schools asked teachers to send less work home! It would seem that teachers were sending so much that students were being overwhelmed. There is a danger of that happening in our country as we transition to online learning. I have spoken with teaching staff to be mindful of this possibility. We need to be mindful of stressed kids in a world that was very different than just a short time ago. We also need to be supporting parents as they face much uncertainty with employment and illness going forward. I suppose the best advice that I can give is to encourage good work habits every day in your homes. Check in with your children about their work and how it is going and to allow them to have appropriate down time as they need. Some experts have written that 2 ½ hours solid work for stage 4 and 5 students might be appropriate. Every child is different and they all learn differently. As we move forward, we will get the balance right. It will take time.

I have also instructed the teaching staff to use the hours from 8.30am to 3.30pm (with appropriate breaks) to do the online work with students. This means that lessons will be loaded primarily in that time and that feedback will also be delivered in the same time as well. Some teachers may work outside these hours as well. (This is what teachers have always done!) If they choose to do this then that is okay too, but it isn't the expectation. Outside of those hours they will continue to mark and grade work and plan and prepare lessons as they have always done. It isn't a 9 to 5 job.

Next week, we will continue to update you every day. We will find gaps in our processes and we will try to do our best to plug them. Sometimes we just don't know what we don't know! Stay safe this weekend. Enjoy some time with family. Perhaps teach your kids some of those great card games we used to play when we were young. The change has been frenetic. Use the down time to just rest and slow down.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Graeme Selmes".

Mr Graeme Selmes
Principal