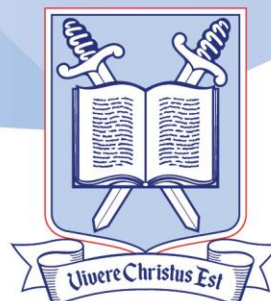


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St Paul's
Catholic College
Booragul

30 March 2020

Dear Parents and Care Givers,

Re: COVID – 19 Update No. 11.

I hope that you had a nice weekend, be it somewhat different to the type that we have become used to in our lives. As a history teacher, I have read a great deal about nations at war and the effect on the population during those times. Life in the Blitz in London must have been so traumatic, likewise the Allied Bombing campaigns in both Europe and the Japanese mainland, particularly for children. I hesitate to draw the sort of conclusions that some of the more excitable in the media are likely to draw but the reality is still there. Life has changed greatly in the space of a few short weeks for all of us in Australia and around the world. Rudyard Kipling, the famous British Poet and Author wrote a beautiful poem called "If." It begins:

*If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:*

*If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:*

*If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'*

*If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!*

Perhaps the final line needs a little modern interpretation, but the message is clear. We all have the strength to make it through these challenging times together.

This week our teaching staff are now working a roster system as indicated in my last update on Friday. We will continue to make contact with the students and we expect that they will be sending work in for feedback from their teachers. I have noted that some students have not as yet made contact with their class teachers with comments or work for feedback. It is important the good habits are set now. It would be easy to sit back and think that we will catch up next term. I suspect that this online model of curriculum delivery will be used for a considerable amount of next term, if not longer. The good habits and connects need to happen this week. I ask that parents have that conversation with their children and ask to see the work that they have been doing each day.

Amber Carter, our Assistant Principal – Teaching and Learning has put together a guide to online learning for families. It is included in this update. It has a number of good tips and suggestions that will help this new way of learning. Our Library remains open for borrowing from 9 to 9.30 am on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, and all day Tuesday and Friday, if students are able to come in and wish to get other resources or a good book to read. Audible, the online audio book company has just announced a collection of free audio books for young people. Here is the link:

<https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>

Stay safe and look after each other.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G Selmes', written in a cursive style.

Mr Graeme Selmes
Principal