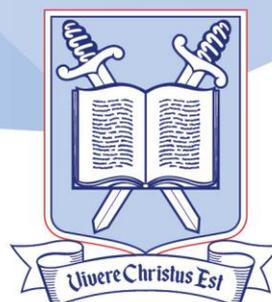


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St Paul's
Catholic College
Booragul

9 April 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

COVID-19 Update No. 17.

May the joy of Easter be part of the lives of you and your families in the days ahead. May it be a time of contentment, rebirth, reflection and enjoyment as we all spend time with our families in this time of great upheaval and uncertainty. As we begin the Easter break, I hope and pray that you all stay safe and that the tensions and concerns that inevitably will happen will be met with a measured calmness and gentleness in all your homes. For our older parents and grandparents, aunts and uncles, friends and acquaintances, those at risk, the St Paul's community will continue to pray for your wellbeing during this difficult time.

We will begin next term from Monday 27th April in the same way that we ended term one. St Paul's will remain open for students who, for reasons of safety and care, need to be on the premises. Staff will continue to deliver online curriculum via our Compass platform and the other online learning tools that we have at our disposal for all other students who remain at home. This online learning will also be the platform for students who attend onsite. As I said in Update No 15, the "training sessions" are over. Students who have engaged effectively during the last 9 days of online learning are well placed to continue. Some of our students who made the choice not to fully engage will now have to reconsider their choices as this program will probably continue for the next ten weeks.

Staff will continue to monitor and support students in all classes. Students Coordinators and Leaders of Pedagogy will be closely monitoring student engagement. Contact will be made firstly with students by their teachers to see what might be blocking engagement. If issues continue, teachers, Coordinators and Leaders of Pedagogy will make contact with parents and caregivers. Obviously, as I have said in a number of previous updates, we are carefully monitoring the amount of work being sent out and adjusting our practices as we move forward. I have asked staff to collect work samples from each class once a week for feedback to help with student progress. Our online learning platforms will help facilitate this process. We do not expect the sort of output from students that would normally happen in the school environment. What we do expect is that all students attempt work to the best of their ability while remaining cognisant of their own personal/family situation. We also expect them to take a mature approach to their own learning. It is up to them to engage. That's what we all need to do in these difficult times. By getting work done, that takes the pressure off the students and just as importantly, families! The simple mantra is – do the best you can with what you have available!

If students have issues with technology or the platforms from which they are accessing the work, I ask that in the first instance that they contact their teacher. I also ask them to check their school based emails every morning as they begin their lesson times. This is an excellent habit for all students to enable them to set their routines for the day.

On our main website, we have added links for activities that young people might like to engage in over the break and into the new term. I encourage families to have a look. There are some wonderful initiatives from lots of organisations to help our young people enjoy time at home. The page of links is under the COVID – 19 banner on the launch page of our website: <http://www.booragul.catholic.edu.au/>

If there is any significant change to these arrangements over the holiday break, I will send out an update at the end of the final week of the break. If there is no change, expect a daily update to begin from Monday 27th.

Have a peaceful and restful Easter. Thank you again for your continued support in these trying times. Look after yourselves and your loved ones. Keep an eye out for you neighbours that might need a helping hand and if you are able, spend some time with your God.

Go gently.

Yours sincerely

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

Mr Graeme Selmes
Principal