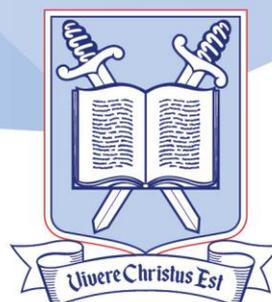


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St Paul's
Catholic College
Booragul

27 April 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

COVID – 19 Update No 19.

Welcome to the new term.

We continue to deliver the curriculum via our online systems for all students. In the next few days, I will be giving you some further information as to how we will be managing the Governments' program of gradual reintroduction of students to the school environment. This will be a very complicated endeavour as we navigate the various issues such as social distancing and ability to do extra cleaning and sanitizing of the school environment with the potential of 300 students and 100 staff here at any given time.

I will be liaising with other Diocesan Secondary Principals and the Catholic Schools Office to help formulate the plan so that we consider the needs of both the students and the staff at the College. Clearly the question of Year 12 will be at the forefront of our discussions but at the same time, we will consider the ongoing learning for all our students.

I have written to Year 12 students today outlining the most recent advice from NESA regarding practical subjects and the HSC. In summary, students working towards major works such as those in Industrial Technology – Timber, Visual Arts and Design and Technology will continue to work on their projects when that is possible and they will receive marks from their teacher rather than have external markers come in to the College. They will still need to put forward their folios for external marking. The details are on the NESA website:

<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/about/news/novel-coronavirus/practical-examinations>

The media have continued to confuse things almost as much as the politicians over the past few weeks. I thank you for your continued patience and willingness to support the College and our staff as we make plans for the implementation of the process of returning students to some sort of onsite experience. One of the comments from our Premier Gladys Berejiklian that seemed to have been missed by the pundits in the media was when she said that *"although we hope to get students to school for one day a week from Week Three, students will continue to work via online platforms whether they are at school or remain at home."* This is to ensure that all students get the same experience of education so that those who need to stay at home because of medical issues and the like are not disadvantaged. It also means that teaching staff are not preparing two lessons for each lesson that they would normally teach.

Once we have solidified our plans for Week Three, I will give you full details for your own planning. In saying that, it is still clear that things can change overnight so I hope that when we are able to inform you of a direction, we can move forward with some degree of confidence.

I will continue to update you each day moving forward. Thank you for your continued support and most importantly, continue to stay safe.

Go Gently,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G Selmes', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mr Graeme Selmes
Principal