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St Paul's
Catholic College
Booragul

5 May 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Re: COVID – 19 Update No 25.

We continue to plan for the staggered return of students next week. It is an interesting exercise as we try to ensure that we have plans and structures in place for the safety of all in our community.

I was fascinated to hear our Premier, Gladys Berejyklian suggested yesterday that they expect there will be increased numbers of schools reporting COVID 19 cases after the return of students. At St Paul's, we are working tirelessly to try to ensure that we are not one of the statistics!

We have put in place some social distancing strategies for the main office. We will have tape on the floor in front of the reception area. Visitors are asked to stay behind that tape. (A bit like the big desks that are now in place at Bunnings at the check outs!) We have also placed exam desks at the student reception side to aid with that social distancing.

We will be taping off the bubbler functions of the water coolers in the yard. Students will be able to fill water bottles but not use the bubblers. We will have posters at the fountains to remind students to sanitize or wash their hands after. We will also be disinfecting the fountains after each break, just like the tables and seats in the yard. **Please ensure that you child has a water bottle for their return to school and that they know not to share it with anyone.**

Practical subjects will be ensuring that equipment is disinfected after each class. This includes Science, PDHPE and the Technology areas.

Students will be asked to sanitise their hands as they walk into class. If you do not want your child to use our sanitiser, they will need to show their teacher their own product and use that as they enter the room.

I also strongly ask that students who are driven to school are dropped off outside the school gates in Primrose Street and Hayden Brook Drive. This is critical to the advice given to us by the Government Medical Officers. This advice is so that we have very limited adult presence apart from school staff on the premises.

As I have mentioned in last Friday's Update, **it is vital that you keep your child at home if they are displaying the slightest respiratory illness.** Runny noses, cough and itchy throats in the past might have meant that a student could possibly be okay at school, but in these testing times, students will need to stay home. Please do not be offended if your child presents at school and has any of these sorts of symptoms and you are contacted to take them home. It is critical that we work together and be over cautious in these matters while the pandemic is still part of our lives.

I understand that there seems to be a lot of new expectations of all of us because of the unpredictable nature of this virus. On Thursday, when I send the letters out to all our students about their return next week, I have outlined 11 major points about their responsibility for their safety and the safety of all the staff. Please continue the discussions with them so that they are very clear on what needs to happen. We need to make this return successful and the students all have a major role to play in this success.

Thank you again for all your help and support. We are working very hard to make things as safe as we can at St Paul's. Your support means so much to all of us as we navigate these new times.

Go gently,

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

Mr Graeme Selmes
Principal