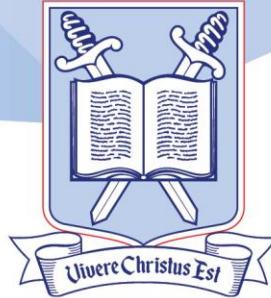


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St Paul's
Catholic College
Booragul

13 May 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Re: COVID – 19 Update No 30.

It is a milestone moment as we now reach Update Number 30.

The first update was issued on the 12th of March. In that update, I spoke about people who had returned from China, Italy, Iran or South Korea and any contact that might have occurred with members of our community. Now we are in a world where 98% of countries are subject to the spread of the virus and countries like the UK, USA and Russia seem to be the epicentres. I suggest that South America and nations in Africa will be the next to be devastated.

So far Australia has been able to navigate the pandemic well. Small hotspots still exist and it seems that community transfer is now the main way that the virus is moving. Our respective state governments along with their federal counterparts have been putting in place effective measures to help slow the progression. In saying that, the consistent theme is that all levels of government expect there to be increased outbreaks as the restrictions are lifted around the country.

Today we welcomed Year 10 back for their day. Like other years, social distancing seemed to be the furthest from their minds as they greeted their friends back to the College. They enjoyed their Welcome Back Sausage Sizzle and were keen to get back to face to face lessons. This year group had the biggest number return of all the groups so far!

It is important that all students continue to engage with their online learning on the days that they are not at the College. As I have mentioned on many occasions via these updates, we do expect the students to engage to the best of their ability and situation. That situation will be different for every student and every household. Our overarching expectation is that students do what they can manage. Families continue to be under duress and we are very cognisant of that. Teachers have families as well and the conversations here at the College probably reflect the same conversations that occur in every work place and home. The loss of a job for a partner, the stresses of working from home and having the kids there 24/7. The continual questions about how to do this calculus question or what do you know about soft rock palaeontology. Every family is doing so well and as a College community, we salute all our mums, dads and caregivers who continue to work so hard to support all of us during this time.

Tomorrow we welcome Year 8. They will be here with Year 12 and Year 11. Once again. I ask that parents and caregivers have conversations about social distancing and the need to work with the College staff to keep everyone safe.

Thank you again.

Go Gently,

Mr Graeme Selmes
Principal