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St Paul's
 Catholic College
 Booragul

20 May 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Re: COVID – 19 Update No 33.

Today you would have received a letter from Mr Gerard Mowbray, the Director of Schools for the Maitland Newcastle Diocese. In that letter he has outlined the Diocesan position on the return of students to face to face learning. The Diocesan position is to continue with a staggered approach for Week 5 (25th - 29th May) and a full return of all students to Diocesan schools from Monday 1st of June. This is in keeping with our position as planned and delivered 2 weeks ago.

For St Paul's Catholic College, the plan for next week is as follows:

Key:



Home Online Learning



School Face to Face Learning

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Yr 12					
Yr 11					
Yr 10					
Yr 9					
Yr 8					
Yr 7					

As you can see, Years 11 and 12 will be on campus every day and Years 7 -10 will continue in the same way as they have been since last week.

Mr Mowbray's correspondence clearly articulates the Diocesan position. At St Paul's we believe that our staggered approach is most appropriate for the support and safety of all our community.

It is interesting that the State Government position on schools is that they are safe places but they expect that schools will face the prospect of being closed as a result of a COVID case. I hope and pray that this will not be the situation faced by the St Paul's Community. These are stressful times for all and the thought of a COVID case affecting one or more of this wonderful community is of most concern. Communities of schools are more than just students and staff. It includes parents, grandparents, friends and relatives. The reality is that several of our wider community are in the position that puts them at greater risk as a result of this virus. It is these concerns that we have as a school and as a system of schools that has resulted in this decision. It is interesting that the original plan put forward by the State Government seemed to factor in that the incubation period of the virus is about 14 days. With the lessening of restrictions some 10 days ago and the staggered return of students across the state, prudence would have dictated the current decision for the State Schools be held back until we actually see evidence of the virus not re-emerging in numbers. Perhaps I am missing something! Perhaps I am being too political!

We will continue to deliver learning via our online platforms for students who will remain at home next week. Obviously, it goes without saying that the College remains open to students who are unable to be at home. I ask once again to inform the College if you intend to send in your child, 48 hours in advance so that we can plan for their supervision. If your child is already here on those days, there is no need to inform us. We will assume that their attendance will continue.

I thank you for your continued support. I understand that it would be great if all students are able to be at school, but this continued measured response is vital for us to ensure that we have a COVID safe workplace for our students and staff.

Stay safe and look after one another.

Go gently,



Mr Graeme Selmes
Principal