



Monday 23 March 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

The NSW Premier has today (23 March) announced that 'all NSW schools will remain open, however parents are being encouraged to keep their children at home wherever possible. Schools will move to an online mode of learning'.

To meet the Premier's /government directives to teach the curriculum in these uncertain times, we will provide online learning, via our *Remote Learning Guidelines* that you received last week: Click here: or copy to your browser: (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jLGzK_-WaXOG05YfeCEPQL_-hGiYgdm_/view?usp=sharing)

I had the opportunity to address all students today (in two groups, outside, and following the *social distance guidelines*) to explain the current situation here at the College and answer any questions.

In the best interests of students, staff and families, and the importance we place upon continued learning of students we have made the following decisions:

Tuesday 24 March – (Tomorrow) we aim to conduct scheduled face to face classes. As I discussed with the students this afternoon, some of our teachers will need to consider their own arrangements regarding their own families. Face to face teaching will cease at the end of tomorrow until the end of Term 1 (currently listed as Thursday 9 April). Students will be encouraged to take home their books and any other resources.

Wednesday 25 March – This will be classed as a *non teaching day* to allow staff time to finalise arrangements for online student learning. Supervision will be provided here at the College from 8.30am-3.00pm. During this day students are requested to continue on work already uploaded on the Google Classroom pages as well as uploading evidence in their St Leo's Learning Den portfolios.

Thursday 26 March – **Learning will commence in an online learning mode (St Leo's Remote Learning) both here at the College (under staff supervision) and at home for the remainder of the Term.**

Children of parents who are 'essential workers' or who cannot be properly supervised at home with off-campus online learning will have the option to do their online learning at school in a supervised setting in line with social distancing protocols.

Students will be required to first check-in with the Assistant Principal, Mr Daniel Petrie at the start of the day on the Quadrangle. Supervision will be from 8:30am – 3:00pm.

Please complete the following survey by tomorrow, 8am 24 March, so we can ascertain the number of students who will be physically attending the campus for online learning from Wednesday 25 March.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdbTfH4nAEZwXPBh4k6XViUXw6wkmB7tZl1nXo8hQXxUthSjg/viewform>

(Please copy this link into your browser if experiencing difficulty clicking through)



A separate email will be sent out to the Year 12 students and parents by the end of the week, outlining a few other items related to their pattern of study around listed Assessment Tasks in particular. I enclose for you a letter to the NSW Education Minister, The Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC from Mr Dallas McInerney, CEO Catholic Schools NSW. This letter is seeking to provide further clarification from NESA. I spoke to our senior students and reassured them that whatever decisions are made it will be a **fair and equitable** process. Watch this space!
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iggQ_JXcJ-p6e9BzquTOmA2S7-kAK64M/view?usp=sharing

I seek your support in impressing upon your young person that schooling continues until the end of Term, albeit in an alternative form. I wish to assure you of our commitment to continue the learning journey of your young person. St Leo's has invested considerable time and effort to ensure that online learning arrangements are in place.

Please ensure your young person is not socialising at this time with other members of the community. For the government's policy of social distancing to work effectively across the community, all must play their part in slowing down the infection rate and allowing our health system to cope with increased demand and save lives. Maintaining good hygiene practices are now of the utmost importance, please ensure your young person is continuing to wash their hands with soap and warm water regularly and follow NSW Health guidelines.

I ask families who have difficult circumstances to stay in conversation with us (stleos@dbb.catholic.edu.au). We recognise that these current circumstances are unique and challenging for all. Thank you for your ongoing support, understanding and partnership throughout this time.

Yours sincerely

A F Gleeson
Principal