



Tuesday 24 March 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

I hope this email finds you and your families well.

Just an update on what has been happening at St Leo's – both off and online!

We had 368 responses to our survey that was sent last evening. Thank you to those who responded. We had 157 students on site today – Intake 2020 through to Year 12. They were all welcome and all will continue to be welcomed, in the weeks ahead.

We conducted a **Staff meeting** this morning and spoke to various issues – many around the quality and content of our Remote Learning Policy. An addition to this policy will be published – with details for students and staff to have “live” video conferencing (face to face class sessions) during regular school hours. This is using the product **Zoom**. Previously this was not supported – we have now particular parameters in place for video conferencing sessions with the various staff to occur. We believe this will enhance the students' learning. Students will receive this link through Google Classroom tomorrow. Some students that were present here today, modelled it with some staff for the College. This will be another valuable tool in delivering the curriculum online to our students. Tomorrow I will publish *Remote Learning Daily Routine* that itemises each step for students to access the remote learning for the day.

**1) Parent Communication**

I have asked staff to feed to me any ‘en masse’ communication through my daily update. I want to reduce the emails/notifications as much as I can. I am very aware how much we as people are getting bombarded in this situation. Also – I would prefer you to read one memo – rather than glancing at several different ones throughout the day.

If you asked any questions in the survey that you received last evening, hopefully these now have been answered by the appropriate staff member. (That survey is now closed)

**2) “Non-Teaching” Day – tomorrow – Wed 25 March.**

A reminder to parents that tomorrow – Wednesday is a *non-teaching* day as listed previously. Students are more than welcome – we are still “open”, but the staff will be finalising their content for delivery of the curriculum through our St Leo's Remote Learning policy. Full supervision will be provided to the students who will be working on their online content.

**3) Students that are ill (during Home based online learning):**

Parents should notify the College using the *Compass app* if their child is ill. Students who are “at home” are classed as being on a “flexible timetable”.

**4) Students who have specified Learning Support –**

The parents/caregivers of students who have assistance with Learning Support Staff – should have received an email today from Ms Lisa Needs our Acting Leader of Learning Support, outlining contact details and some other issues.



## 5) **Assessment Tasks – Intake 2020 to Yr 12.**

**Year 12** - Today I sent an email (via Compass) to all students and parents outlining our current policy on Assessment Tasks for the remainder of Term One.

*All Tasks that are listed in our Year 12 Assessment Schedule are currently suspended until further notice. (NB – NOT cancelled or postponed).*

*There is one exception - **Year 12 Design & Technology** which is due to be handed in via Google Classroom on **Friday 27 March**).*

*This update is pending further advice from NESAs I would imagine within a couple of days or early next week.*

*At this stage (I would confidently presume) Year 12 Major Works/Bodies of Works etc are still listed. So work should continue. I will communicate (depending on Gov't authority closures etc) dates/times for that the various workshops/teachers will be available for students to be here on campus.*

*(The Board of NESAs are meeting today).*

**Intake 2020 (Year 7) to Year 11** – This policy is currently being finalised – and will be in tomorrow's *Update to Parents*.

- 6) A Google Classroom notification has been sent to **all Year 12 and Year 10 students** from our Leader of Partnerships and Pathways, Ms Timmerman with details about undertaking the **Morrisby Profiling Online Assessment** next week. The results of this assessment will be of great help when choosing your study/ career pathways after school. You will receive good insights in your strengths, career preferences and study & career options.
- 7) **Student Wellbeing:** Within a week, the Catholic Schools Office will be publishing a link to a website: *Student Wellbeing Advice for Parents and Carers: Home Based-Learning*. This site will provide a range of resources including suggested responsibilities for students and parents, establishing routines and expectations, communication with your child around their learning, helping students to set learning targets and goals, suggestions for achieving a balance of activities, managing screen time, and wellbeing resources.
- 8) We are aware from today that **Google Classroom** was in some cases a little slower than expected. In these times – there is what I would call unprecedented use world-wide. Over the next two days – we will offer another way of delivering the curriculum through Compass. (This has a lower usage than Google Classroom). Students and parents will be fully informed of this other mode of delivery, to overcome this issue over the next couple of days. Compass has a far higher bandwidth than Google Classroom.
- 9) **School Fees / Finance Issues**  
Firstly the Catholic Schools Office (CSO) asked that we advise parents that their children's position at the school is guaranteed.

For any family that has had their income affected as a result of the Covid19 should contact the CSO Fee Liaison Unit on Tel: 9847 0728 or by email at: [schoolfees@dbb.org.au](mailto:schoolfees@dbb.org.au)

At this stage – I will be sending regular Updates – and over time – the frequency will be reduced as we all become familiar with this type of delivery.



Our staff joined in prayer this morning and I wanted to share this with you as it was so appropriate:

When this is over, may we never again take for granted:

A handshake with a stranger  
Full shelves at the store  
Conversations with our neighbours  
A crowded theatre  
Friday night out  
The taste of communion  
A routine check-up  
The school rush each morning  
Coffee with a friend  
The stadium roaring  
Each deep breath  
A boring Tuesday  
Life Itself.

When this ends  
May we find  
That we have become  
More like the people  
We wanted to be  
We were called to be  
We hoped to be  
And may we stay  
That way – better  
For each other  
Because of the worst.

Yours sincerely

A F Gleeson  
**Principal**