



Wednesday 25 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Good evening. Thank you for the positive feedback we have been receiving from parents, it helps motivate the team under these difficult circumstances. As you know I am endeavouring to give you regular updates on how life at St Leo's is changing, whilst still supporting your son or daughter in this new environment. As of 6pm, Wed 25 March; here is the news from St Leo's:

1) Health and Safety:

We continue to have NO known cases of Covid19 at the College.

2) Preparing for St Leo's Remote Learning:

We had our teaching free day which proved a success as we rolled out the *Remote Learning Policy* final preparations, which commence live, **tomorrow Thursday 26 March at 8.30am for the students**. I am very proud of our team who are not just working on the delivery of plain handouts but on engaging and varied material to enhance the students' learning.

You would have noticed from last night's update that we are using ZOOM as a video conferencing platform. Attached are the guidelines we have developed to assist in maximising the learning outcomes of our students.

3) Remote Learning Daily Routine:

Please find attached the *Daily Routine* we have developed. **We ask each student to follow this schedule from 8.30am tomorrow morning**. They have been provided with a copy of this through Google Classroom tonight.

The College has also produced an "*Online Gym*" so that students are not just "glued" to their screen all day and have an opportunity get up and exercise (and some entertainment) thanks to our PDHPE staff. We very much believe in striving to educate the whole person, all Domains, not just Academic, but the Physical Growth Domain as well. You will find a link to the gym in the *Daily Routine*.

4) Canteen:

As you know the College is still open for any student, but in light of such small numbers, the canteen will be closed for the foreseeable future so I would ask you to provide provisions for your child during the day.

5) Communication with the College:

The best mode of communication with the College is via our email at: stleos@dbb.catholic.edu.au
As you will be aware, we have been experiencing issues with Telstra lines which limits our capacity to accept calls. Therefore, if you have a query please email the College and we will direct it to the appropriate staff member.

6) Assessment Tasks

Today I wrote to Year 12 parents and students to give them an update on Assessment Tasks and NESA's current position. We continue to work on the Year 7-11 Assessment Task schedule and it will be released when completed.



Strangely in this environment there is an element of anticipation as we roll out such a mass, “whole College” online delivery of the curriculum.

I would like to finish this update where our staff began today; joined in prayer and we focussed on our Year 12 students and their particular concerns

A Prayer for our Year 12 Students

Lord, while all students are feeling concerned and anxious at this unprecedented time, we pray especially for the Year 12 learners in our lives.

To them, the cancellation of school is not a holiday. It is time they don't get to spend with their friends for the last few months before they graduate.

They are anxious, realising there is a chance they may not be able to walk the halls to class as normal for the last time, participate in their final school events, or perhaps even have a proper graduation or attend their formal.

They are sad they may never take the stage for their last much anticipated theatre or music productions, or the field or court for their final games. They are nervous there is a chance they may not get to sit their final exams and how that will affect their futures, that they may not be presented with that certificate they have been working towards for 13 years and ring the *Bell of Discipleship* in front of their family, friends and the whole school community as every other year group has done.

They are scared the last day of their senior year may come all too soon with so many things left undone.

They came into this world in the days of 9/11, and they are graduating high school during a pandemic. They will no doubt be our strongest generation yet.

Lord, help us to give them the support they need during these hard times and remind them they are not alone.

We ask this in Your holy name,
AMEN

FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION: *commemorates the visit of the archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary, during which he informed her that she would be the mother of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*

Yours sincerely

A F Gleeson
Principal