

Friday, 24 April 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Caregivers,

A warm welcome back for Term 2 2020.

Up until a couple of months ago - we had not heard of Coronavirus - it was an uninvited Easter guest. Our world has now been turned upside down. The word "corona" is latin for *crown*. Currently it is our *crown of thorns*. We have just celebrated (albeit differently as we have in the past) the Resurrection of Jesus, who also had his own crown of thorns - for all of us. In his resurrection we believe in *everlasting life and hope*.

These are two characteristics that are with us on this journey through Term Two and beyond.

I trust that over the past two weeks you have had a break from the school routine that came on very suddenly towards the end of Term One. I also hope that there has been some opportunity to balance up some of the downsides of Covid19 with some very positive times within the family.

We keep in our prayers and thoughts the many members of our community who have been affected by not only the Covid19 virus itself, but the direct effects of this virus upon many, many millions of people across the globe. We are part of this global epidemic and yes we here in Australia are doing better than many others.

We are looking forward to interacting with our students again in our Learning and Teaching as we move through the journey of this virus.

Thank you for the fantastic response we had in our Progress Check survey conducted before the break. The results (which were provided to you) and were analysed by the Working Party (thank you to those students and parents who volunteered to be on the Working Party).

This Working Party has assisted in formulating the second model of our St Leo's Remote Learning Policy and Practises.

During the recent Staff Development Days - we finalised our second model. The first model as we all discovered was not sustainable for students, families and staff.

The advantages of this model are as follows:

For Students	For Parents	For Staff
Consistent work and a far more structured day. More time available for completion of work (in one subject per day).	Due to the increased time for students to complete work, there is less pressure on parents.	Provides greater opportunity for increased quality feedback to students.
This model provides an avenue for Pastoral Care and Wellbeing support in a digital environment. It also promotes student ownership towards learning whilst providing flexibility to cater for individual needs.		

As I type this letter the Prime Minister has just announced that *Social distancing 'not appropriate and not required' in schools*". As this whole situation is an ever changing landscape I am not going to confuse you, the students or staff with other issues about what will happen in Weeks 3-10. The College Leadership Team has spent a number of hours over the past few days in discussing the parameters around what learning will look like here at the College in Weeks 3-10.

Therefore the current Model - Model II will evolve for Weeks 3-10 for a third model. Whatever that looks like - it will be pleasing to reconnect with the students in a face to face situation. A priority is to have face to face for our Year 12 students.

I will let you know later next week what this learning in Weeks 3-10 will look like.

The **non-negotiables** are as follows:

- 1) The **College is open** (as we have been all holidays) and will always be open for students of essential workers or those students who are at risk. For Weeks 1 and 2 these students will be supervised and their learning will occur via our Remote Learning Policy Mk 2 through their devices
- 2) Parents/Care-givers are asked not to send their young person to the College if they are **unwell**
- 3) We will be commencing the Mark 2 Model of our Remote Learning Policy this coming Tuesday for Intake 2020 (Year 7) through to Year 12.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff who have given of their time during the holidays so students could attend (respecting the social distancing guidelines) and access the facilities here on site:

Ms Axton; Ms Cali; Ms Donaghy; Ms Doyle; Ms Ellison; Ms Hashim; Ms Hegarty; Ms Jenkins; Ms Lappin; Ms Li; Mr Morad; Ms Milkins; Ms Murphy; Mr Petrie; Ms Schneider; Ms Scott; Ms Smallwood; Mr Spurtacz; Mr Tavernese; Ms Todd; Ms Tynan and Ms Wessels.

In this current situation the College (as we have in the past) respects your decision as parents/caregivers in making your own decision about sending your young person to the College. Many families are in unique situations and you are the only ones that can make that decision. You need to do what is in the best interests for your family.

Please take some time over the weekend to review and learn about this new model (Mark 2) with your young person which will commence on this coming Tuesday at 8.30am.

If you have any questions or queries please contact College Reception on 9487 3555 or email stleos@dbb.catholic.edu.au



AF Gleeson
College Principal

PS - For the attention of Year 12 Parents and Students - I have sent via Compass the latest statement from NESA at 4.45pm this afternoon about **Major Works** and the **HSC Exams**.
<https://www.educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/about/news/media-releases/media-release-detail/hsc-exams-go-ahead-in-2020>