

Letter No 6 - Covid-19 Update

23 July 2021

Dear St Leo's community,

I write to you in this current climate of uncertainty and doubts. However, like last time, we must learn to be flexible, adaptable and build upon our resilience and our faith, through each other and in God.

We are a people of Hope, remembering our theme for this year, 2021 -



It is important that we all strive to be people of hope, for others, our young people, ourselves and those that are closest to us. I share something I saw on social media recently:

Not Everything is Cancelled...

Sunshine is not cancelled
Love is not cancelled
Relationships are not cancelled
Reading is not cancelled
Naps are not cancelled
Going for a walk is not cancelled
Kindness is not cancelled
Imagination is not cancelled
Conversations are not cancelled
HOPE is not cancelled...

(author unknown)

I am sure we could all add to this list in our own way.

In our own community, we see the successful operations and outcomes for the **Hogarth** and **Sarich** families over the past two weeks. We will continue to keep these families in our prayers and thoughts. We also keep in our prayers - **Ms Kitic's** (Learning Support staff) husband, Doug who is very ill in hospital at this time.

Those families who are experiencing socio-economic hardships - as we are a people of hope, we know that we can look forward to better times in the not too distant future. We ask that these people are comforted in the *communal hope* of the St Leo's community.



Year 12 Update

This afternoon NESA has released further information pertaining to HSC Major Works/Practicals dates and the revised start and finish dates of the HSC Exams in October. [Here is the link for further details.](#)

This will be a separate memo to Year 12 from me later this afternoon. [It is linked here.](#)



Home Based Learning - Attendance

If your young person cannot attend the classes:

In a memo I received today from Catholic Schools Broken Bay (CSBB), a reminder to parents/carers that all children, **unless sick** or on approved leave, **are expected to be engaged in appropriate HBL and/or attend school.**

If your young person cannot attend and participate in the Home Based Learning Program on a daily basis - please contact the College and discuss the situation with the appropriate staff member.

Presence and Engagement:

The College takes a **roll of those present each period**. Having these high expectations for our students assists that Home based learning is important, just as face-to-face classes in a normal term. We also list any concern the teacher has with students if they show no evidence of engagement with the lesson. Given we don't have face to face lessons, we use other ways, whether that be by

- chat rooms,
- on screen gestures,
- online discussion and
- submission (and subsequent feedback) of work through Google Classroom,

are just some of the ways to judge "engagement". If parents/carers are at home with their young person - please ensure they are not distracted as much as possible - so we can work together to ensure we are maximising the "engagement" of your young person.

Maybe over the dinner table questions could still be asked of your young person - **"What did you learn today?"**



Parents/Carers' Evening Next Wednesday (Zoom session)

Given the sudden instigation of the Home Learning Model across the College, you as parents and carers may have questions, concerns or comments. Our last parent evening was held the Sunday prior to the return for Term III, a second one will be held next week - **Wednesday 28th July at 7pm.**

The only agenda - will be based around Home Based Learning - and your perspectives of the model. There may be some great hints being offered from other parents/carers. I have invited our College Counsellor, **Ms Anne Marie Newham** to attend as well.

[Here is the link to join next Wednesday evening.](#)

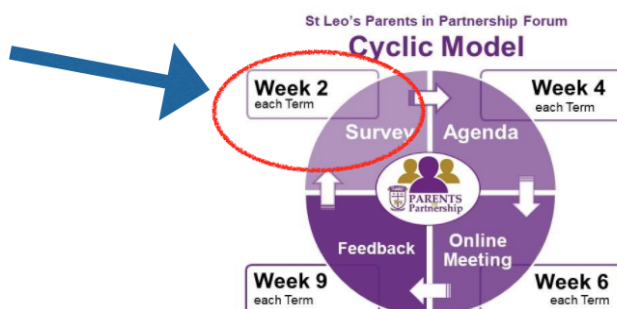
Parents in Partnership (PiP) Model

Despite the Covid-19 issues, we will be continuing our parents in Partnership model for our regular meetings. Following the model, if you want to

Proposed Flexible Cyclic Model

One Meeting Per Term

- Week 2:** Survey is published about suggested Agenda Points; standard form, plus a theme plus return Agenda items
- Week 4:** Agenda published
- Week 6:** Parents in Partnership Evening conducted at 7pm
- Week 9:** Feedback to parents/caregivers where necessary



submit an Agenda Item for the Term 3 PIP Meeting - Wed 18th August at 7pm:

Here is the link so you can submit an agenda item for the Term 3 PIP Zoom Meeting. This link will close Wednesday 11th August. [Click here](#)



Aerobics - National Titles

Over the last holidays the College was notified that all our Aerobics Teams had qualified from the State Titles to the National Titles on the Gold Coast in August this year. In fact it was the first time ever all our teams have qualified for the Nationals!

Given the current Covid situation the Nationals will be conducted via electronic means - yet to be announced. It is a little disappointing - but we are a people of hope! [Linked here is a letter](#) sent to all Aerobics Team families earlier today with further details.



School Fee Assistance

In Letter No 5, I outlined the assistance some families may need in terms of School Fee Assistance. We are mindful that the current COVID-19 lockdown may be impacting your ability to afford school fees.

Catholic Schools Broken Bay would like to do what we can to assist any of our families in need during this time. In response to this current lockdown, we have **expanded our current COVID-19 Fee Support Program** to include additional support for parents/carers impacted financially due to the lockdown. Details and the application form can be found under the Parent Hub section of our website ([click here](#)) or by contacting the *Fee Liaison Team* (at schoolfees@dbb.org.au or 9847 0728). Please contact the *Fee Liaison Team* to discuss your circumstances and other pathways available for fee support. We look forward to being able to assist you if you require fee support during this period.



Pathways/Careers

Throughout the week (particularly during the listed sport double periods in *Intake 2021 to Year 10*, I have invited **Ms Julie Snodgrass, our Leader of Pathways** to make use of this opportunity to conduct some short Zoom workshops on Pathways - and talking about what is available for students as they move through secondary school and transition into Year 13 and beyond - and the many pathways that are available. I would hope many students take this opportunity - so they can start thinking of these pathways, particularly in this new world we now live in. I envisage these workshops to be like the "infomercials" we see on TV. Again we need to take these opportunities that are presented to us in these lockdown conditions. Of course, the students will still get an opportunity to exercise/physical activity after these "**infomercial style Pathway Workshops**".



Year 10 - Careers/Pathways Q&A Session:

Monday 26 July, 2:30pm - Link: <https://dbbcatholic.zoom.us/j/64641618482>

Ms Tynan and Mrs Snodgrass will be holding a zoom session for any Year 10 student who might need help to gather information regarding their pathways options for 2022.

This might include questions about

- Apprenticeships
- Completing HSC and an Apprenticeship (SBATS)
- Completing your HSC at Leo's and doing an EVET course
- Following your passion at a COLLEGE or TAFE
- or any other questions around pathways and careers. **Looking forward to helping you find your pathway!!**



Intake 2021 to Year 11 Assessment Task Schedule

As stated in the last letter - the College particularly our Leaders of KLAs (subjects) are working closely with **Mr Daniel Lane** (Acting Dean of Curriculum) to plan a *revised needs based Assessment Task Program*, that will:

1. Best support our students in their learning and ensure a *fair* workload
2. Best support our staff - with respect to workload and due dates for reporting etc
3. Best support for our parents/carers (to ensure the health and well-being of all)
4. Avoid an unrealistic accumulation of ATs (*eg in the last two weeks of Term III*)
5. Adhere to protocols/guidelines from NESAs
6. Ensure the learning/teaching cycle continues - rather than a heavy weighting to the conduct and occurrence of ATs

This will be achieved by:

1. Possible rescheduling of listed ATs
2. Possible cancellation of some listed ATs
3. Possible reweighting of listed ATs
4. Creative thinking about the listed ATs (including combining ATs, and AT redesigned for Home based Learning)

Part of the process will involve **consultation** with a selection of **parents/carers and students**.

The aim is to have a published revised schedule of Assessment Tasks by the end Friday 6 August (end of Week 4).



Extra Activities and Resources for Students

St Leo's staff have again been busy organising a growing list of activities for outside of class time to keep our students busy, connected and engaged during lockdown.

- **St Leo's Wellbeing Resource Pack** contains a range of resources to support young people (and their parents/carers) during this challenging time. The Remote Learning page of our College website also has additional resources.
- **NEW: The CAPA Lockdown Talent Show** - Whether dance, vocal, instrumental, painting, sculpture, photography, videography, monologue, etc. show off your creative or performing arts skills from home. Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd. [See more information](#) and upload your entry to Google Classroom by 31 July.
- **Vinnies Winter Sleepout (at home)** - students can still join the Leo's team for the Vinnies Winter Sleepout (at home!) next **Friday, 30 July**. Join the team and raise at least \$100 for Vinnies to receive one of only 100 Leo's in Lockdown beanies! We will be linking up with other schools on the night for online games, chats and presentations via Zoom. Fundraising is now well over \$7000, with St Leo's at second on the overall schools leaderboard and **Charbel K (Year 10)** currently the top **individual fundraiser in the state!** Well done!
[CLICK HERE](#) to make a donation or register! Contact [Rev Gomez](#) for further information.





- **Meditations:** Take some time out to refresh with one of Ralph Kershler's peaceful video recordings: [Meditation 1](#) [Meditation 2](#)
- **Liverpool Football Academy home-based training package** - With the postponement of our Joint Venture Academy with the Liverpool Football Club, we have access to a home-based training package for students and their families to enjoy and embrace. Each week, a new program will be uploaded onto the St Leo's Sports Google Classroom Page and students can post videos of the challenges in the program. All students are welcome to join in, regardless of their interest in Football. The St Leo's Sports Google Classroom code is: **ziq743p**. [Here is more information](#) and a [Full Schedule](#).
- **Share your Leo's in Lockdown** - Share your home-based learning and lockdown activities with the St Leo's community. Submit a photo or short video of your learning setup, [homemade mask](#) or other project, student or family sporting activity or meditation, or any Leo's activity keeping you occupied during your Leo's in Lockdown and we will select the best pics to share next week. [SUBMIT HERE](#).

All College communications concerning Covid-19 (i.e. Letters Nos 1-5) are listed on the College website.

We are very conscious of the impact this lockdown will have on our staff, students and families. We are in regular contact with Catholic Schools NSW and will keep you updated as further information is available.

Thank you for your support of our school, our prayers are with you and please stay safe and enjoy the weekend!

Tony Gleeson
Principal