



3 April 2020

Dear Families

**Re: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update #5**

A short time ago I wrote to you about the rapidly changing COVID-19 situation that has impacted on all of us. These past weeks have been different from anything we have experienced before as families and as a school community.

Together with Catholic Education SA, and in partnership with families, we are committed to ensuring educational, spiritual and pastoral support for every child in our school.

I provide this update to you as we work through the significant implications of the COVID-19 pandemic and the changes that will be required to ensure we can continue to support the learning and wellbeing of your child.

**Term 1**

As you are aware, next week will be a pupil free week for all CESA schools. If you have no alternative care arrangements for your child, please contact us immediately. This time between Monday 6 April and Thursday 9 April will enable teachers and school staff to prepare for the remote delivery of curriculum. Therefore, teachers will not be sending home Learning@Home packages in Week 11 as we do not normally provide learning for students on student free days.

**Term 2**

From the commencement of Term 2, unless informed otherwise by the Government, Catholic schools will remain open to provide remote curriculum delivery and to support students whose particular circumstances require them to be at school.

We will work with families of students who will require attendance at school during this time. This will include children whose parents are required to be at work.

Learning will be delivered simultaneously in school and at home. All students will access the same mode of learning; those at school will be supervised to access the same curriculum provided for those who will access it remotely through the Learning@Home packages. This mode of learning will continue until we are advised differently by the government.

Please note that Monday 27 April was scheduled to be a student free day; however, we have decided to postpone this given the current circumstances. Therefore, Term 2 will start on this date for all students whether they attend school or continue their learning at home.

The Learning@Home packages for next term will be sent to families via email on Friday 24 April, which is the last week of the school holidays. Parents who require a printed copy will be able to collect their package from the Front Office on the first day of the term from 8:30am onwards.

**Fee remission**

Families who have lost significant income due to COVID-19 will receive a total school fee remission, initially for a period of 3 months. We will work with families to implement and provide this financial assistance. An *Application Form for Financial Assistance* is available on our school website for families to complete. Alternatively, you can simply ask to speak to one of our finance staff and they will assist you with the form.

Any families who are experiencing any financial difficulty are encouraged to engage with us and we will confidentially and sensitively work through this with you.

**Supporting your child's learning from home**

We continue to work relentlessly to ensure students' welfare and learning is optimal. We are committed to ensuring this work is undertaken with continuing commitment, care and expertise.

Catholic Education SA will soon launch a website that will support students living and learning in an online learning environment. The site will include practical information about how you can support your child at home. Details on how to access this website will be communicated to you shortly.

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Catholic Education SA will also continue to provide updated information on its website – [www.cesa.catholic.edu.au/alerts](http://www.cesa.catholic.edu.au/alerts) - and Facebook - and of course, the staff and I, will be present at school in Term 1 until 9 April.

### **School Counsellors**

With many students now learning at home, we wanted to make you aware of how your children can continue to access school counselling services.


We are offering alternatives for appointments to suit the individual student's comfort and also considering what is available to them at home. Our school counsellors will be available to contact parents and students via telephone, email or Microsoft Teams (using the 'chat' function).

Kim and Maggie are available for appointments Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. If a student has not previously attended counselling, please contact the school and we can arrange a referral for this to occur.

The development of your child – educationally, spiritually and pastorally – is our highest priority, and we know that this is heavily dependent upon the strong, trusting partnership we have built with each family. We are stronger through our work together. I would especially like to thank all the parents and students who have expressed their support and gratitude to the staff over the past couple of weeks. It remains a tremendous privilege for us to continue to work with students and parents in these challenging circumstances. And, without knowing what the next few weeks or months might hold in store for us, I am confident that we will get through it together.

May you and those you care about remain safe and well.

Yours sincerely



Damian Smith  
Principal