

20.04.2020

Note from Principal

Dear Parents,

Our interesting times continue. With school due to start back next week there seems to be no let-up with the challenges we are facing. In fact, for those living in the North West of Tassie it appears to be a little tougher. As I mentioned to some of you in my phone conversation last week the government is saying that schools will be open next week (for us Monday), but are encouraging students to stay home if they can.

What does 'if you can' really mean? The indication we are getting is that if the parent is not an essential worker then the child should be staying home. They have a couple of 'riders' on this. One is that if your child can cope with being home then they should remain at home. And I am aware that some kids are not coping with the isolation well. Another rider is that if your child is unwell keep them home. If they have a temperature keep them home.

As a school we also need to review how we engage students in learning. And, how do we record that the students are engaged in learning each day. The landscape in this area is changing as well. We have been informed that the government:

- will not require an A to E grade for mid-year reports,
- could be making external exams online and possibly even delaying them for years 11-12.

Another issue that has been brought to my attention is that social distancing is being strongly encouraged more than ever. This now significantly impacts bus travel. The number of passengers allowed on a bus at any one time is dramatically reduced in the context of social distancing. Over the next day or two, with this in mind, we will have to explore what we do with the bus runs.

What this is doing is reinforcing in my mind that we need to be able to communicate with you better and more frequently over the next few weeks. As work comes home or done online, you the parent needs to know what is being done and how it needs to be done. We would love to ring you or even chat online with groups of parents. This would allow us to explain what's happening and allows you to ask any questions or make comments or suggestions about how we progress through this.

May God Bless You in this time

David McNeill