

25.03.20

Dear Parents,

I am aware that this time is a time of uncertainty and anxiety. Many of you and your children may be suffering from heightened levels of stress. And probably school is not your highest concern. We at school are working towards trying to minimise your concerns about your child's ongoing education.

I have just read an ABC report stating that school will be closed for the last week of this term. This time is being made available for teachers to plan thoroughly for the future. Although the federal government is saying, at this stage, school will as normal come term two, teachers are expected to plan for 'distance' education during the last week of term. These arrangements are not set in concrete; we are learning that changes and up-dates are happening hourly.

So, where are we in our planning for your child's education? As many of you would be aware, we have organised study packs for all students. These packs cover a two-week period – up to the holidays. If your child is not at school, then they can work through these packs. There is a letter of instruction in each of the packs. If your child doesn't have their pack, please contact the school.

High school is a little different to primary. Where internet access is available some classes will be offered online. The students need to regularly check their school emails for instructions and 'invitations'.

Parents, at this point we would like to suggest that this work should be done in a 'public place'. There could be a temptation, while working online, to be distracted by other things. We would like to minimise the opportunities for this to happen. We don't expect students to be working online all day, just at certain times. Classes will run as per the timetable. For example, if students have yr 7 Maths at 1:05 on Thursday then a '**google meet**' class will run for them at 1:05 on Thursday. A note: not all classes will run online. Here is a link for parents to look at about internet usage at home:

<https://bit.ly/33F96su>

This is only a short video but something worthwhile to view.

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Let me state the obvious, uncertain times can be stressful times. No-one will miss out on an elevation of their stress levels. But let me share a little encouragement – panic is in itself hurtful. I would like to encourage you to take heart. In John 14:27 Jesus makes this comment:

*“I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give isn’t like the peace the world gives. So, don’t be troubled or afraid.”*

King David also makes a comment in Psalm 46 and let me summarise: even though the world may appear to be crumbling around us we need to take time just to be still. David says, *“Be still and know that I am God.”*

We at school are praying for our school family. If there is anything that you think we can help with just let us know and we’ll see what we can do.

Please remember that we have a chaplain and a counsellor at your service if you wish.

God Bless

David McNeill