

Principal's Update

3 April 2020

Dear all

We are now into our sixth day since we commenced the online learning approach for our students.

Every day we are learning more about what students need. For example Stage 6 students (years 11 and 12) seem to be coping better with online learning than Stage 4 (Years 7 and 8) who seem to need more support particularly in the structure of their day. Also Stage 4 are either overwhelmed with the amount of work that is being delivered or alternatively they are saying they are not getting enough.

In the face to face classroom environment, a teacher might present work and then provide activities for a student either individually or in groups to go on with and while that is happening move around the room to help students particularly if they are struggling to get started on a task.

With online learning this one on one support is more of a challenge. Where possible now that we have the Zoom licence, teachers may use this tool to have those direct conversations.

To that end we have put together a survey, to enable us to see how the online platform is working for your student. If your student does not have access to the Internet at home please include their name and Year at the end of the survey as we can provide both laptops and Internet connective devices to some students.

<https://forms.gle/LiJkWxrdCcr1BTQW8>

The wellbeing of your student is another area we wish to support over this period of online learning. Members of the wellbeing team are happy to ring you and then speak to your student if that type of support is required.

A reminder that our School website has the latest updates regarding Covid-19 and also copies of my previous Principal's Updates.

As the NSW government has stated schools remain open for students of parents in essential services, students with high needs and for students who cannot receive adequate supervision. Teachers are rostered on to support those students. Following Departmental guidelines, students at school will however engage in the same online learning as their fellow students who are learning from home.

As with most of the workforce and keeping with social distancing, teachers are encouraged to work from home and therefore less than 50% of teachers are working at school.

The latest communication the School has received from the Secretary Mark Scott is that this online approach will continue for at least 90 days; that is the end of June.

This online learning is not a sprint nor a middle distance event but more closely parallels a marathon for all of us and particularly our students.

If you have concerns please contact us and we will do our best to address your concerns regarding your student.

Best wishes

Susan

Susan Wyatt
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