

## Principal's Update

7 April 2020

Dear all

I hope you are all coping with this new online world and that you are well? At Mosman High we have had no reported cases of Covid-19 for students or staff and I am so pleased that I can report this.

### **Online Survey**

Thank you to the almost 400 families that have replied to the online survey that I sent out on Friday. I have gone through the data from the survey with all the executive and they in turn will go through the results with their staff at faculty meetings tomorrow morning.

While it is pleasing to note that most families have sufficient hardware and software, we did note that there are families who don't.

### **Online Equipment**

The Department is providing notebooks and dongles for students. If your student does not have a notebook/laptop please email the school and put attention Susan and I will ring you to organise a pick up.

I have been told the dongles will be sent out from a central location this afternoon. Years 12 and 11 are our first priority. I will let you know when they arrive and I will be getting more early next term. So if your student who is in Years 11 or 12 requires a dongle; again please email the school and put attention to me and I will contact the family as soon as they arrive so that it can be picked up.

Please ensure that the dongle is only used for school work as if the student chooses to use it to play games then the available memory is used up extremely quickly. One dongle should last for several weeks if not longer.

### **Wellbeing**

Thank you also to those parents who indicated they wanted contact regarding their students wellbeing. I think that every student mentioned has had a phone call to their parent by a member of the wellbeing team.

If ever there was a time when the partnership between school and home is important in the best interests of students it is now. If you have any concerns please contact us.

The best way to contact and get a response is to send an email to the school email address and put attention to whom you need to speak to. Your email will then be forwarded to the teacher or Head Teacher or member of the wellbeing team depending on the concern.

### **Who will be at school term 2?**

For this term 50% of staff have been at school since we went to online learning. The staff have used this opportunity to improve their technology skills and develop resources, units of work etc. as well as supervise those students who are still attending school.

From the start of term 2, the number of staff at school will be significantly reduced. We have been advised by the Department to keep a small number of staff only at school with the remainder working from home.

Of course students of people in Essential Services, high needs and students who are unable to have parent supervision are still welcome to come to school. Also in term 2 all supervision will be in the library.

### **Day Structure**

Parents have been asking how to support structure in their student's day. Our suggestion is each day:

1. Firstly have a copy of their school timetable on their desk or table (the first week next term is an A week)
2. Then ask students to go to their @education.nsw.gov.au email account to see if there are any messages for them
3. Look at their timetable to see what subject they have period 1 and then have the student log onto that subject through Google classroom. Their teacher will have one explicit instruction for that lesson that day. There may be more but each lesson will have a clear overarching direction (all teachers will be asked to follow this pattern)
4. As teachers are gaining confidence using Zoom this is becoming increasingly used. It gives the opportunity for teachers to see their student and equally importantly allows the students to see their peers. Teachers will inform students through Google classroom if the lesson is to be a Zoom lesson and invite them to attend through their @education.nsw.gov.au email account.

### **Assessments**

In term 2, years 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12 will be notified of their assessment with 2 weeks warning by their teachers. The assessments may vary a little due to moving to this online format.

For year 10 they will still have an exam week in week 4.

In that week no year 10 students will be given lessons. A timetable for the exam week will be sent to all students early term 2 (and to year 10 parents).

All exams will be delivered online. This will provide year 10 with an opportunity to study for exams in an exam week. This happens in years 11 and 12 (in term 3) but is a skill that needs practice.

I know that I have put a lot in this email but I am also conscious of how important it is that our families are aware of everything that is happening.

By the way Monday 27 April is still a Staff Development Day (online) so there will be no lessons posted on that day. First day for students is Tuesday 28 April.

Once again thank you for all the support we are receiving and please don't hesitate to call us if we can be of support to you.

Best wishes

Susan

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