



25 January 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome to the new school year. I hope this letter finds you safe and healthy at the start of 2021. In normal times my first communication of the year would not be a formal update of this nature, but I do believe that we should start the year with everyone on the same page with regards to COVID. I have sent this update out as late as possible due to the continually changing nature of conditions and restrictions associated with COVID-19.

As I write, we find ourselves in the fortunate position of being able to continue with business almost as usual. The staff have been back on campus for a week now, getting everything ready in anticipation of the return of students on Wednesday. There is an infectious air of enthusiasm and positivity around the place and thanks to their hard work the classrooms, and other facilities look both spectacular and inviting.

I am very excited to inform you that parents are now allowed back on campus, with certain restrictions in place. Please maintain a 1.5m distance from others at all times (if this is not possible, then a mask should be worn), do not come on campus if you are experiencing any flu-like symptoms or are awaiting the results of a COVID test and please sign in at Junior Administration or Main Reception, which has always been our protocol. If other visitors come on campus they will need to sign in using a QR Code, as you do in restaurants. We do, however, encourage you to only come onto campus for specific purposes and request that parents don't congregate when dropping off or picking up their children

Assemblies

Unfortunately, parents are still unable to attend assemblies. This is because under the current restrictions as soon as we introduce adults who are not teachers into the mix, the number of students that may attend the function is greatly reduced.

Senior Investiture

This event is being held on Friday 12 February. All Year 12 students may have two guests attend the service. Parents will need to socially distance before and after the event and seating will be allocated in accordance with COVID safe rules. We are looking forward to a beautiful service where our Year 12 students formally pledge to committing to their positions of leadership in front of representatives from across the College community and their parents or caregivers.



Developing character, inspiring hope

Swimming Carnivals (Years 4 to 6 and Years 7 to 12)

I am pleased to announce that parents will be allowed to attend both the Years 4 to 6 and Years 7 to 12 swimming carnivals at the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre. More information detailing the specific procedures will be sent out by the Sports Office closer to each event.

What happens if we are directed to close?

In the very unlikely event that a member of the staff or a student is diagnosed with COVID-19, the College may be directed to close for a day or two for deep cleaning and contact tracing to occur. Of course, we may be directed to close for short period if there is a Gold Coast lockdown similar to the recent Brisbane lockdown. In either case, parents will be advised via text message to refer to their email for details. From a teaching and learning perspective if we are only directed to close for a few days the following will occur:

Prep to Year 4

Parents will be sent an email from their child's teacher directing the children to the Share Point folder for their activities.

Years 5 and 6

Students will continue to do their school work through OneNote on their laptops.

Years 7 to 12

Students will be expected to continue their studies as per the weekly plan as published on D2L for each subject and continue to access the content on D2L for each of their courses. This will include continuing to work on any assessment that is due.

To assist in ensuring students know what to do during a potential enforced "shutdown", and in case they have any queries, we would begin each day with a Year-level Teams meeting at 8.20am, as well as conclude each day with a Year-level Teams meeting at 2.45pm.

Students would be expected to attend both of these Teams meetings with their respective Heads of Year, during which a roll would be taken.

If we are directed to close for a longer period of time we would revert to our Off-Campus Learning program. We would need a few days preparation time to ensure that OCL again occurs as seamlessly as possible and for the timetable to be adapted. Details of the new program would be communicated at such time.

Health and safety on campus

We continue our cleaning and safety plans that were implemented last year. Students are reminded to frequently wash or sanitise their hands and if they exhibit any flu-like symptoms parents are to please keep them at home until they are well or until they have had a negative result to a COVID test.

Bottom Oval

This is a digression from COVID information. Some of you will be shocked to see the state of the bottom oval. Please don't be – we are in the process of putting in irrigation, re-grassing the entire oval, and replacing the cricket nets and pitch. It will look absolutely stunning in the next few months – if we get a long enough break from the rain to get things done!

I know that over the past few months the pandemic has come far closer to home for many of us who have family and friends in countries where the statistics are alarming. Many of our families now know someone, or of someone, who has passed away due to COVID. Our hearts go out to all of you as we continue to be grateful for the safety and health that we enjoy in Queensland. I assure you that we will continue to play our part to ensure it stays this way.

I wish all our families a calmer, more secure year and I hope that for all of you it is a happy and rewarding one.

Today I share with you a verse from a prayer written by Alden Solovy, a liturgist, poet, and teacher. He's the author of *Jewish Prayers of Hope and Healing*

*God of healing, [we pray for] an end to this pandemic,
And all illness and disease.
Bless those who stand in service to humanity.
Bless those who grieve.
Bless the dead,
So that their souls are bound up in the bond of life eternal.
And grant those still afflicted
With disease or trauma
A completed and lasting healing,
One-by-one,
Until suffering ceases,
And we can stop counting the dead,
In heaven And on earth.*

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Cohen', written in a cursive style.

Kim Cohen
Principal