



31 August 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers

It has been lovely to welcome parents back to our campus this past fortnight and I thank you for following the mask and social distance rules outlined in my previous communication. I hope those who attended the character parade at our inaugural whole College book week event last Wednesday enjoyed the opportunity to reconnect and share this exciting time in person. The combination of colour and creativity certainly evoked excitement and gave us many reasons to smile and be grateful for where and how we live.

I am sure that everyone is feeling COVID fatigued, hearing about the rising numbers in both NSW and Victoria and constantly on the alert for cases appearing in Queensland. I know that many are frustrated with the rules to wear masks, none of us like them and certainly find them restricting. Teachers, in particular, are very tired after having to wear their masks throughout the day and further project their voices when teaching. I thank every staff member and student for doing what is necessary to keep the community safe.

It was with some relief that I was able to inform teachers that, according to the latest information from ISQ, they may teach in face shields if they are comfortable to do so.

Whilst I understand that you are tired of hearing about COVID, it is important that we are all prepared in case we do have to go into a period of lockdown, even for a few days. The Senior Leadership Team have determined the following:

Senior College (if we return to OCL)

For the first day of OCL, whilst teachers are preparing lessons, students will be expected to work independently and continue their studies as per the weekly plan published on D2L. Content is available on D2L for each of their courses. This will include continuing to work on any assessment that is due. There will be no live online lessons on this first day.

From the second day, students will join lessons as per their normal College timetable via MS Teams, as they did in the previous lockdown a few weeks ago.

Junior College (if we return to OCL)

The first day of any OCL period will be a Pre-set Learning Day. This is a planned day that provides activities the students can do without extra resources. During this day there will not be face to face meetings with the class teachers as they will be planning the next day's lessons for OCL, based on the children's current curriculum focus. We will also be using this day for Year 4 students to collect their class laptops and to organise resources children will need at home for their learning.



Developing character, inspiring hope

From the second day of OCL we will follow the same routine as we executed during the previous lockdown. Learning will be accessed in the below manner:

Prep to Year 3: PowerPoints on Share Point

Years 4 to 6: through OneNote notebooks

We will also have the twice daily class live check-ins and small group teaching times with their teacher over the week. There is always one teacher available per year level throughout the school day to help with any difficulties or queries. You will be provided with this information on a daily basis via the year level home learning email at the start of each day.

As always, I will inform you as soon as I am aware of any information regarding changes to restrictions. Please remember that if you or your child is sick or shows **any** COVID symptoms it is important to stay home and get tested.

At this stage, our Gala is well on track for the 11 September, so if you haven't purchased your tickets yet, please make sure that you do so soon as they are selling very fast! It promises to be a wonderful event, organised by our dedicated P&F. A wonderful opportunity to celebrate the 25 years of Saint Stephen's and the perfect antidote to COVID blues.

As always, it is important to remember our good fortune to live where we do. Our hearts go out to those around the world who are doing it tough, particularly those in countries where human rights abuses are a way of life. At this time, I would like to pray for those in Afghanistan who are living in fear of their safety.

*O God of mercy and of peace,
We hold before you the peoples of Afghanistan.
Be living bread to those who are hungry each day
Be healing and wholeness to those who have no access to health care amidst the ravages
of pandemic
Be their true home to all who have been displaced
Be open arms of loving acceptance to those who fear because of their gender, ethnicity,
religious or political views
Be peace to those engaged in armed conflict and those who live within its shadow.
Turn our hearts and minds to your ways of just and gentle peace,
Open our eyes to see you in all acts of compassionate care
Strengthen our hearts to step out in solidarity with your suffering people and
Hold us all in your unfailing love.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who emptied himself of all but love in order to bring
life in all its fullness.*

Amen

Yours sincerely



Ms Kim Cohen
Principal