



6 August 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers

I write to thank you for your support and cooperation as we end this week of Off-Campus Learning (OCL). The support of the Saint Stephen's College parent community continues to impress me; and I thank the many parents and caregivers who have shared their gratitude over this time. I thank you all for the spirit in which you have engaged with our College and for keeping your students home unless absolutely necessary.

In challenging times, it is always nice to have some positive news to share. Here is a snippet of some lovely messages our College has received this week. I'm just using this opportunity to brag about our amazing staff!

"As the saying goes, 'it takes a village to raise a child', and we are sincerely thankful that we chose Saint Stephen's to be a part of our village."

"Thanks again for the assistance and guidance during these uncertain times. Hopefully we will see you back in the classroom soon."

"Not only the content provided and ease of use, but the individual attention the teachers have all provided for my children has been brilliant. It amazes me that they can juggle their own kids as well as a class of 25."

"We made the right decision choosing your College for study in Australia. You look after the students well and we feel very confident with you." (International parent, overseas)

"Saint Stephen's College is very quick in action and prepared well for lockdown learning from home." (International parent, in-country)

No decision on lockdown until Sunday

The Chief Health Officer will decide on whether the lockdown can be lifted on Sunday morning after receiving the latest cases. No decision will be made before then. However, she said if the lockdown is lifted there will be restrictions, but it's too early to say what type of restrictions as it depends on how the cases unfold over the next few days.

If the decision is to return to school, we will do so immediately with restrictions in place as directed by Queensland Health. If we are to remain in lockdown for a longer period, the following will occur:

Senior College

Lessons will continue in the same format as this week. Students are to wear uniform, either day or PE, when 'in' classes and parents should inform the College, via the App if possible, if your child is absent.

Junior College

Students in Years Prep to 3 will require more physical resources in their learning, so we will operate the drive through service again, as in 2020.



Developing character, inspiring hope

This will be available for families on **Sunday between 2-3pm in the East carpark**. Collection of the worksheets, a writing book and more home readers will occur at this time.

If this does occur, please remain in your car and have a mask on when you speak to the assisting adults. Access to the rest of the College will not be available.

On-campus supervision will continue if lockdown directives remain. Our students whose parents are essential workers will be able to attend on campus with supervision from skeleton staff. If we remain in lockdown, Leith Biggs, Dean of Junior College and Kate Naug, Dean of Teaching and Learning, will contact those families for attendance patterns next week.

Possibility of masks for under 12s

The Chief Health Officer advised in today's media conference; she is considering some pilot work regarding mask wearing for older primary-age children when the lockdown is lifted. The CHO indicated the focus would likely be older children in primary school to determine if it will be beneficial. "Nothing has been decided at this stage," she said.

While there is no official announcement yet, we will keep you informed should this change. However, given mask wearing for older primary aged children is being actively considered by Government, it may be prudent for parents of these students to purchase some masks in preparation.

The CHO reinforced the importance of masks and their role in containing the spread of the virus. She indicated mask-wearing may need to continue until December.

Contact tracing

Public health alerts have been issued for a range of contact tracing locations. Regularly check the Queensland Health website for the latest list of exposure sites and continue to remind your families to [monitor the site for updates](#).

Useful site

Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service has a blog to answer some of the questions many parents and carers are asking about the COVID-19 Delta strain, vaccination and keeping kids safe which you and your communities may find useful [COVID-19 and Kids: What you need to know](#)

Next update

After the Premier's briefing on Sunday, the Senior Leadership Team will meet to discuss the situation and finalise arrangements. I will send out an update as soon as possible after that.

For a laugh...

One of the interesting observations of being in lockdown is the opportunity to view through a new lens how much-loved family members engage in their own work environments. Circulating through social media channels recently were some amusing jibes:

"Hearing my partner in full work mode for the first time. I realised... I'm married to a "let's circle back" guy – who knew?"

"I remember the day I realised my partner was the "one more question" person at the end of meetings. I was somewhat surprised?"

"My partner is pleasant and patient on the phone. It's like an invasion of body snatchers. I know them as the person who can't sit still at the red lights. Why can't I have the patient guy?"

"I heard my partner explaining something in great detail and with excessive patience and almost panicked that there was a stranger in my house!"

I wish you all the very best for a weekend spent with family. Thank you again for your ongoing support, patience and understanding.

Thank You for the gift of life.

Thank You for the gift of family.

I pray that I am a person who has an abundance of patience, especially with the people closest to me.

I pray I be motivated by love to be patient in every circumstance.

I pray I be slow to speak and slow to be angry.

I pray I have self-control with all of my responses, with my tone of voice, and with my actions in Jesus' name, Amen

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kim Cohen".

Kim Cohen

Principal