



8 August 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Thank you to the Saint Stephen's Community for supporting each other during this last week of OCL. I thank and acknowledge our parents and caregivers who have supported students from home whilst many have continued to also juggle work; our teachers who have been able to quickly transition and teach from home and all our staff who have continued to support the children of essential workers on campus during the last week or who have been working remotely to keep the College running smoothly.

We are pleased to see lockdown restrictions lift, with Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk announcing students will be able to return to the College on Monday 9 August.

To echo the advice from Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, we are not out of the woods yet and the next 14 days will see continued restrictions particularly for our students and staff.

As per the roadmap to easing restrictions, the following restrictions will now be in place (excuse the dot points, but I wanted to get this out as soon as possible).

For the next two weeks (at this stage):

- All adults to wear **masks** all the time on campus, unless they have a medical exemption. Whilst this may not be ideal for best communication with students, not only is it a legal requirement, but the safety of the staff is of the highest priority.
- Teachers who teach students with a **hearing impairment** may use a face shield so that these students will not be disadvantaged.
- **Senior College students are to all wear masks**, unless engaging in strenuous physical exercise or eating and drinking. If your child in the Senior College has an exemption for medical reasons, please provide documentation to their Head of Year as soon as possible. I am relieved that students in the **Junior College are not required to wear masks**, as was possibly on the cards according to the Chief Health Officer in her presentation on Friday.
- All students who are **sick** or waiting for COVID test results, must stay at home. Those who are able should be able to join most classes via Teams, and should try to keep up with their lessons on D2L and/or One Note. Obviously if they are too sick to learn, they should rest and recuperate.
- Community Sport, including all **APS fixtures**, is cancelled for the next two weeks.
- We recognise the importance that as far as possible, 'normal' interactions and exercise are crucial at this time, thus all **extracurricular activities, including sports training, will continue** and students will need to wear masks where required. Instead of being held after school, APS training will occur during school hours on Thursday for Junior College and on Friday during school hours for Senior College.
- ONLY Saint Stephen's College students can be on campus at any time.
- **Instrumental music** lessons will continue, with **brass and woodwind online**. Venues will be organised on campus for these students.



Developing character, inspiring hope

- **Parents are requested not to come on campus**, unless dropping off late or collecting early in the Junior College. Parents can call Student Welfare from their cars in the Senior College if they are collecting their child early from school. Meetings with staff should be held via Teams.
- Parents are asked to please encourage your children to bring **drink bottles** to school. We will be limiting the number of bubblers available so that these can be frequently cleaned during the day.
- All **excursions** for the next two weeks will be cancelled.
- The **Science Expo** is postponed.
- Given the current short lockdown in Cairns, we have made the decision to postpone the **Year 6 Cairns camp**. You will receive details of this as soon as we have confirmation of dates.

We ask families to continue to stay up to date with the [Queensland Health contract tracing exposure sites](#) and ensure that if you have been to one of the exposure sites, that you and your family follow the health direction to get tested and stay at home. The entire residence must remain in isolation until you are advised by Queensland Health. Should this eventuate, please contact the College immediately.

Please also be mindful of the [symptoms of COVID-19](#) and get tested if you experience any of these symptoms.

Remember that there are a number of staff available to support your child emotionally as well as in the academic arena. If they are having a hard time please ask them to chat to Ms Katrina Riley, Head of Students Prep to Year 3; Ms Jane Couché, Head of Students Years 4 to 6; or their Head of Year in the Senior College. Of course, you can reach out on their behalf if you prefer.

We continue to thank all of our families for your support and perseverance as we navigate through these turbulent waters together. We will keep all families updated should any of the above change.

*We give You thanks for the many blessings of this life;
for our health,
for our homes, loved ones, and the joy of friendship,
for the beauty of world around us,
for the kindness, generosity, and sympathy shown to us,
for bringing us safely out of lockdown on the Gold Coast,
and for being able to learn remotely, but now return to the classroom.
We ask that You help us to have empathy for those who remain in lockdown, especially those in
New South Wales and Victoria, and for those countries that are struggling to bring COVID-19 under
control.
This prayer we make in Jesus' Name.*

Amen.

Kind regards



Kim Cohen
Principal