



3 August 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Hopefully all of your children have had a settled day, getting back into the rhythm of Off-Campus Learning (OCL). For the younger students (and their parents) sitting quietly at a desk for long periods of time may be onerous. Please do not worry if they are not getting through all of the work provided - there will be revision sessions - and right now their safety and wellbeing is our primary focus.

We understand that today may have highlighted the need for additional resources from the College. With this in mind, students will be able to come onto campus tomorrow between 3.30pm and 4pm to collect anything that they may need from school. It is imperative that they sign in and have a temperature check outside the GFA and, once again, we ask parents to remain in your car.

A point that I failed to clarify in my previous updates is students' uniform. Whilst learning online, or at school, students should be in uniform. They may wear their day or PE uniform.

Listening to the Deputy Premier's update this morning, I was alarmed to hear that data showed 11 of the 31 people in the escalating Delta variant cluster, are under the age of 10 and eight are aged between 10 and 19. This is the first time in the 18-month pandemic that the virus has spread in schools. I therefore urge essential workers, if at all possible, to make alternative arrangements for your children rather than sending them to school. That said, we do try to spread students out as much as we can and take all precautions possible, but the reality is, the larger the numbers the more difficult this is. We have increased our cleaning and sanitising routines and the desks and play equipment are serviced regularly but we do need the numbers attending school to be limited to children of essential workers only.

The Director General of Education, who has taken advice from the Chief Health Officer, has asked state schools to reduce the number of staff at school from tomorrow, due to the nature of the Delta Strain. We would also like to keep the number of staff on campus to a minimum for this reason. This will mean that there will be only a very limited number of staff providing supervision of OCL for the children of essential workers on campus. **Please do not send you child to school unless you are an essential worker.**

Please remember that while we are obliged to follow the instructions as made by the Chief Health Officer, we also have an obligation to ensure the health and safety of all our staff and students and we will adhere to the necessary health requirements.



Developing character, inspiring hope

On another note, I have sent out a number of important COVID updates over the past few days and we have had lots of positive feedback from parents who have download the NEW App, mentioning the ease of access to this information. Push notifications have allowed us to alert you to important messages.

At this time, we are making the move away from myriad emails to notifications via the App, and we urge parents to take the time to download it onto their mobile devices.

Apple users can download the App from the Apple Store:



Android users can download from the Google Play Store:



I wish you all the very best during this time and thank you, once again, for your support and willingness to transition so quickly back to OCL with your children.

Lord, give comfort to those unable to work or run their businesses as theirs are not essential services, may this time away from work be short.

Bless employees who must continue to serve the public during a time when being in contact with others puts them at a greater risk, keep them safe and help them to stay positive while they provide service to customers and clients who may be frazzled and impatient.

We lift up employees who work for companies that clean hotels, hospitals and schools with suspected or confirmed cases of the coronavirus, please keep these employees safe as they labour to protect others from the virus. Bless the effectiveness of their efforts to help quell the spread of the coronavirus.

Amen

Yours sincerely

Mrs Kim Cohen
Principal