



10 January 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians

I hope you have had a restful weekend, no doubt you have been carefully watching the announcements and decisions surrounding the outbreak of the Omicron variant of COVID that is spreading throughout Queensland.

Yesterday the Premier announced a number of changes that will affect the 2022 school year. These include:

- *Delaying the commencement of the school year by two weeks for most students. Onsite learning for the school year will now commence on 7 February.*
- *Remote learning for Years 11 and 12 students will commence from Monday 31 January. During this period all other students will still be on holidays and not provided remote learning.*
- *Extending the school year by one week in December.*

These changes apply to Junior School, Senior School and Kindergarten.

During the two-week off-campus period, schools will be open for students of essential workers and vulnerable children for supervision.

We are currently working through the requirements of these changes and waiting on advice from Independent Schools Queensland as to how much leeway private schools have with regards to the commencement date of Off Campus Learning. It has not been confirmed that all directions are applicable to those other than state schools; however, **I can say with certainty that we will not have students on campus, apart from the exceptions mentioned above before 7 February 2022.** Hopefully, by this date, the peak of the current surge of cases will have passed. We are determining if and how OCL may occur for year levels other than Years 11 and 12 prior to that.

Saint Stephen's College Senior Leadership Team will meet again tomorrow to discuss these arrangements and I hope to be able to write to you as soon as we have further information.

In the interim, any extra-curricular activities, such as sport and performance training and rehearsals are cancelled, or, where possible, moved online. You will receive further information about this from the relevant staff.

I do understand that it is frustrating not having clarity at this point, but we are choosing not to rush decisions so that our way forward is well planned and in the absolute best interest of our students.

Thank you for your patience and understanding, you will hear from me again very soon. In the meantime, enjoy the sunshine, stay safe and assure your children that we look forward to welcoming them back to campus as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Ms Kim Cohen  
Principal



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