



20/3/20

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your feedback and comments which are helping us to ensure that our communication is reaching you. As more information is made available to the College, our communication with you may increase in frequency.

Current Status

There are no reported cases of COVID-19 infection in any of our students, staff or direct contacts.

Updates

- NAPLAN 2020 has been **cancelled**.
- This decision was made by the Australian Education Council involving the Education Ministers of all states and territories earlier today.
- An excerpt from the communique received from the Education Council states...

The decision to not proceed with NAPLAN in 2020 has been taken to assist school leaders, teachers and support staff to focus on the wellbeing of students and continuity of education, including potential online and remote learning.

Further, the impact of responses to the COVID-19 virus may affect the delivery of NAPLAN testing, including the operation of centralised marking centres and the implications for nationally comparable data if an insufficient number of students are available to do the test.

Education Ministers reiterated that the National Cabinet has agreed, on the advice of the chief health and medical officers, that “pre-emptive closure of schools are not proportionate or effective as a public health intervention to

prevent community transmission of COVID-19 at this time.” The advice of the Chief Health and Medical Officers is available [at this link](#).

Events and Ensembles

- PLC Armidale music ensembles, including choir, **will continue in Week 9** with increased social distancing measures in place.
- All peripatetic music lessons will be **online from Week 10**.
- NECOM ensembles have been **cancelled** as of today.
- The 2020 New England Regional Philosothon has been **postponed**.

Actions

- Please complete the **Home Internet/Computer Access Survey** which will be sent later today.
- Keep unwell girls at home. A number of our students have been sent home from school this week with gastroenteritis symptoms and head colds.
- Check the additional resources uploaded to the Current Families page of our website to help inform conversations you may be having with your children regarding COVID-19;

[When our world shakes: Six ways to respond to COVID-19](#)

[7 Tips When Talking To Kids About Coronavirus](#)

We are thankful that none of our students, staff or their close contacts have been diagnosed with COVID-19. We trust and pray this continues and encourage our community to be vigilant about hygiene and increased social distancing as key preventative strategies.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "V. McFarlane", enclosed in a light blue rectangular border.