



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL COVID-19 #14

Dear Parents & Carers,

As we prepare for a return of students and staff to Campus for Term Three, the resurgence of Covid-19 across Melbourne and clusters emerging across Sydney serve as reminders that there is no room for complacency. Continued vigilance in containing and suppressing the spread of the virus requires a community response.

Our focus remains the same in Term Three as it was when news of Covid-19 first emerged in late January, that is:-

- The safety and wellbeing of students and staff whilst at the College is a key priority.
- To continue as many of our core academic, pastoral and co-curricular activities as permissible.
- To make decisions and plans based on the advice of state and national health and regulatory authorities.

This is achievable with individual and collective commitment to create and maintain a Covid-19 safe environment across the College.

### CURRENT STATUS

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

### UPDATE

Students should self-isolate for 14 days, be tested and not come to school until cleared if they or a member of their household:

- have been to [Victoria](#) since 6 July
- have visited or been in close contact with someone who visited a NSW [COVID-19 case location](#) during the times specified by NSW Health as updated on their website daily.

## **UNWELL STUDENTS**

Parents of any student who has self-isolated are asked to notify either [Mrs Wake](#), Head of Junior School or [Mrs Caldwell](#), Head of Senior School with details of their daughter's absence, confirming that a Covid-19 test has been completed and list the expected return to school date.

- If a student feels unwell for any reason, they should not come to school until they are fully recovered.
- Temperatures will continue to be checked each morning and if presenting as unwell students will not be permitted to attend the College until 24 hours after the last symptom has subsided.
- Students who are unwell and are staying away from school or self-isolating, will be provided access to learning materials to complete whilst at home.

## **CAMPUS VISITORS**

- College grounds remain restricted to students and staff only.
- Parents and carers should maintain social distancing, especially at student drop-off or pick-up points and remain in their car unless accompanying a very young child into the Junior School.
- A limited number of contractors, including tutors may be given access to the College after they have completed the External Visitors Covid-19 Declaration Form available at Reception.
- Except in an emergency, no work will be undertaken by contractors in classrooms or other student spaces during school hours.

## **EVENTS**

All Term 3 events are under review and where these may be held safely in accordance with social gathering guidelines will proceed, with Year 12 events a priority. School-based activities that involve a large gathering of adults (including parents) will be reviewed and may only proceed with modifications. Some changes may occur at very short notice. Updated information about events will be published in the [Lion's Roar](#).

In accord with other local Boarding Schools, there will be no Boarders' Weekend in Term 3. Boarders may have an exeat weekend with their parents as requested but no school days will be allocated for travel apart from the beginning and end of term.

## **SPORT**

IGSSA have advised that:

- Term Three Netball and Hockey competition will proceed with attendance limited to competitors, coaches, umpires/referees and supervising staff. Parents and other spectators will not be permitted to attend or watch the games.

- Athletics Carnival has been cancelled due to SOPAC restrictions on the number of people allowed at the venue. A final decision is yet to be made as to whether the carnival can be held in an alternate format, though it will be unlikely that parents and spectators will be permitted to attend.

We are awaiting advice from the local sports associations regarding spectator numbers, however anticipate that there may be a limit of one parent per participant at local matches.

### **DAILY OPERATIONS**

- Social distancing measures will continue as far as practical
- Health guidelines now permit 15-minute student assemblies, however, our Term Two model for Assemblies and Chapel services will continue. These will be conducted remotely in the Junior School with a hybrid delivery in the Senior School, some classes attending in the Astra Arts Centre whilst others via Zoom.
- Students will spend Recess and Lunch breaks outdoors (weather permitting).
- Lunch order arrangements for Day Students will continue as for Term Two.
- Students are discouraged from sharing food and drinks with each other.
- Students are to wear sport uniform (sport jacket, jersey, sport shirt and track-pants) to and from school each day they have a PE Lesson or sport training.

### **HYGIENE MEASURES**

- Personal hand sanitiser should be brought from home, carried by all students and used at the start and conclusion of each lesson.
- Students should continue to wash their hands regularly throughout the school day.
- Handwashing at the start of recess and lunch breaks is required of all students.
- Hard touch surfaces throughout the school (e.g. handles, railings, bathrooms and doors) will continue to be cleaned regularly with bathrooms cleaned after recess, lunch and the end of the school day.
- Shared equipment such as musical instruments, classroom and sporting equipment will continue to be cleaned regularly.
- Ventilation will be increased in all learning spaces where possible by opening windows and doors.
- Hygiene reminder signage is displayed around the school.
- Students should carry their own water bottle to use at school.

### **BOARDING**

Separate information has been sent to Boarder Families regarding the girls return to campus. The Boarders will continue to be spread across dorms with Austin House serving as our main quarantine and health care centre. Other Information regarding Boarding operations will be communicated directly by Mrs Spencer, Head of Boarding.

## **CONTINGENCY PLANNING**

As more information regarding the current cluster spread of Covid-19 becomes available, we will adjust our management and response plans accordingly. In the event of being notified by NSW Health of a case of Covid-19 affecting the College we will endeavor to do the following:

- Comply with the recommendations of NSW Health which may include closing the College at short notice for a deep clean.
- Communicate with families via the Covid-19@plcarmidale email address, text message and PLC Armidale App notification.
- Consider the safety of students and staff remaining calm and measured in our response as students are exited and returned to Campus.

The coming term will require us all to be vigilant and take reasonable precautions to minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in the College and wider community. Physical distancing combined with good personal hygiene and observing social gathering restrictions are simple yet effective strategies we shall continue to make a priority. Your support with these measures is appreciated.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "N. M. Taylor", is displayed on a light blue rectangular background.