



PLC
PRESBYTERIAN
LADIES' COLLEGE
ARMIDALE
— 1887 —

25/3/2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your ongoing communication with the College regarding individual situations and concerns. It is helpful for us to have some understanding of the personal circumstances our girls and often families are facing in order to be able to support and care for them effectively.

Current Status

There are no reported cases of COVID-19 infection in any of our students, staff or direct contacts. We are aware there are cases confirmed in Inverell and Tamworth but have not been told of any in Armidale, nor more directly within our community.

Update

Academic Leadership Team discussions and staff meetings held yesterday and today have informed our planning for the remainder of the term. To clarify the arrangements for next week...

Week 10: 30/03 - 03/04

- **The College remains open** and as many girls as are able to attend should do so.
- Classes **are being taught** by teachers with lessons and materials provided online for those who are not able to attend.
- We will continue to **trial modes of lesson/learning delivery** based on the feedback we have received from students and staff. Having students in class will assist further with this.
- Some year groups in the Senior School have **in-class assessments in Week 10**. Where possible these assessment tasks should be completed at school. If a

student is working remotely, a responsible adult may be required to supervise the assessment task.

- If your daughter is not attending in Week 10 **please notify** Mrs Fiona Wake in the Junior School (juniorschool@plcarmidale.nsw.edu.au) or Mrs Anna Caldwell in the Senior School (seniorschool@plcarmidale.nsw.edu.au).
- All Boarders apart from International Boarders or those who will be remaining in Boarding over the Easter Break, **to travel home at the end of Week 10**.
- **Week 10 will mark the end of Term One** for students due to exceptional circumstances.

Additional Briefings

- Late yesterday afternoon, our education regulator NESA advised principals that the **2020 Higher School Certificate is proceeding** as planned. The principal has the authority to adjust the number of assessment tasks if deemed to be in the students' best interest. You may read the full advice to schools [here](#).
- The Prime Ministerial address to the nation last evening affirmed that schools are to remain open in accord with expert medical opinion. He also acknowledged the need in **Term Two** for schools to consider a **flexible model** of delivery, at least initially. A transcript of the press conference can be found [here](#).

The Australian Government has also asked for the following information to be made available to our community - [QUICK LINKS TO GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND HOUSEHOLDS IMPACTED BY COVID-19](#)

Actions

- Please heed the Government advice to **practice social isolation**. It has been disappointing to hear reports of our girls being seen in town in the afternoon with a group of other students, not all of whom are from the College.
- As much as possible **send your daughter to school in Week 10** and restrict socialising to home and school.
- Junior School parents will be required to **collect Learning Kits at the end of Week 9**. These are to be brought to school in Week 10 and will form part of our trialling process to revise and improve access to a virtual school model.

As discussions have been held about what it may look like if most learning takes place remotely, several girls have expressed disappointment at not being able to take part in the experiences that forge strong connections with others such as ensembles, sports and co-curricular programs. We look forward to a time when these can resume.

It has been encouraging to walk around and see girls at school, focused and engaged in their learning. The sense of community and security in belonging to a safe and supportive environment enables girls of all ages to thrive. We continue to be thankful for our families and their ongoing commitment to the College.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "V. M. Jayson", enclosed in a light blue rectangular border.