



16/3/2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Throughout the week, the College has continued to prepare for a 'business mostly as usual' approach taking into account any disruption COVID-19 may bring. We have also been kept informed by the Association of Independent Schools (AIS) NSW who are being regularly briefed by the Chief Medical Officer (NSW). We are aware of the Australian Government's directives regarding non-essential gatherings, social distancing and self-quarantining.

There are three guiding principles which guides our actions and decisions:

1. Ensure the safety and well-being of our students and staff as best as we are able
2. Ensure that core academic, pastoral, sport and co-curricular activities continue
3. Seek and follow the advice of others; our sister school PLC Sydney, AIS NSW, NSW Health and other Government Agencies

Current Status

- There are **no reported cases** of COVID-19 amongst our students, staff or in any direct contacts that we have been made aware of.
- We have implemented the practice of '**social distancing**' this includes refraining from handshaking or physical contact.
- We are evaluating each activity of the College on a case-by-case basis however Assemblies and Chapel services are **suspended** as combined gatherings until further notice.

Updates

School Closures: There has been much speculation in the media about the possible closure of schools. We have been advised that this is **not** the advice of state and national health authorities.

- We are following the advice we have received to remain operating as usual, however are making necessary preparations should this advice change
- Our Year 7-11 Excursions have been postponed to Term 4
- Classes will be held as usual this week for Pre-Kinder to Year 10, Year 12 are involved in non-assessment mid-course reviews.

Late yesterday afternoon, the Association of Independent Schools of NSW, with a number of NSW independent school principals, held a teleconference with The Honorable Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health; the Honorable Sarah Mitchell MLC, Minister for Education; Dr Kerry Chant PSM-NSW Chief Health Officer; Mr Mark Scott AO -Secretary, NSW Department of Education; and Ms Elizabeth Koff -Secretary, NSW Health. Following the meeting the NSW Chief Health Officer sent out this [communication](#).

I am aware that there may be a further briefing regarding Boarding Schools in particular later this week. Again, I will endeavor to update you as new information comes to hand.

Sport: Tildesley Tennis (Sydney) has been cancelled, however training and preparation programs for both the Junior and Senior school girls held on our courts are continuing.

- Most of our sport is played at a local competition level.
- This will proceed as usual subject to advice from the individual sporting associations.
- Onsite fitness and other training continue as usual.

Co-Curricular: Music lessons, choral and other ensemble groups, dance, speech and drama will continue as usual.

Travel: All travellers re-entering Australia are now required to self-isolate for 14 days. Please consider the implications for your daughter should any overseas travel be planned for the April holidays.

Actions

If your daughter is feeling unwell especially with flu like symptoms and an elevated temperature, or a member of your household has returned from overseas or in a high risk area where COVID-19 is active...

- Do not come to school
- Follow COVID-19 advice from [NSW Health](#)
- Advise the College of your daughter's illness as soon as possible and keep us updated
- Reinforce good hygiene practices with your daughter. We have been encouraging additional handwashing with soap and water, especially in the Dining Hall
- Watch and discuss this informative and factual [video from Dr Michael Carr-Greg](#), psychologist with how to talk to children about COVID-19.

We will let you know immediately should the status outlined above changes. Once more we seek your understanding that plans and schedules may change quickly, sometimes with much shorter notice than we prefer. Please access information about COVID-19 and the latest copy of any communication from the [College](#).

Questions or comments to our dedicated email address covid-19information@plcarmidale.nsw.edu.au are welcome.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "V. M. Taylor", enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.