



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL COVID-19 #13

Dear Parents & Carers,

The fact that a Covid-19 update hasn't been sent for a while is a good thing as it indicates that our management plans for the return of students to the campus have been effective to date. However, with the most recent update to the Public Health (Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order now permitting an increased freedom of travel and social gatherings, it is possible that clusters of Covid-19 in regional NSW may arise. It is important that we are as prepared as much as possible for future scenarios.

CURRENT STATUS

- There are no reported cases of Covid-19 infection in any of our students, staff or direct contacts.
- A viral illness (not Covid-19) has seen a number of our students and some staff tested for Covid-19 with all tests returning a negative result.
- For the first time since early March there are no cases of Covid-19 in Armidale or the Northern Tablelands.

UPDATE

- All girls have returned to the College and accepted graciously some variations to routine in both the day and boarding school to accommodate social distancing recommendations.
- Current restrictions across both the Day School and in Boarding are being reviewed on a fortnightly basis and are subject to change.
- Most co-curricular programs and sport training sessions resumed this week, whilst others such as choirs and vocal ensembles are still being reviewed.
- Assembly and Chapel continue to be conducted remotely in the Junior School with a hybrid delivery in the Senior School with some classes attending in the Astra Arts Centre whilst others link in via Zoom.
- Separate communication will be sent next week with an update regarding IPSHA and IGSSA sporting fixtures.

- Over the coming weeks, restrictions on movement and gathering will likely be reduced further by the authorities but the requirement to practice social distancing and increased hygiene protocol will remain for the foreseeable future.
- The following NESAs update may be of value to our Year 12 students and their families – [Stay Healthy During the HSC](#)

CONTINGENCY PLANNING

- Even though we have just returned all students to campus, the Executive have been reviewing the plans and protocol required to suspend operation of the College for contact tracing and cleaning in the event of being notified by Public Health of a case of Covid-19 affecting the College.
- Should this happen, the College Executive would effect the plan and communicate to families via the Covid-19information@plcarmidale.nsw.edu.au email address, text message and PLC Armidale App notification.
- Our focus would be on the care and safety of students and staff remaining calm and measured in our response.
- This week, local physician and PLC Armidale parent, Dr Rod Martin demonstrated to the Executive, College Nurse and Head of Boarding, the Hunter New England Health “Virtual Hospital” monitoring system. Utilizing state of the art technology, the system will further enable the College to care for unwell students in our well-equipped Health Care centre.

CO-OPERATION & CONSIDERATION

The PLC Armidale community is a close and connected one. The period of Remote Learning demonstrated this as has the delight of the girls in returning to the College. The effectiveness of social distancing relies on all members of the PLC Armidale community making wise choices about activities and events beyond the campus and outside of school hours. Your support in this, particularly over the long weekend is greatly appreciated.

We are also seeking families willing to host our International Students for Home Stay during the July Holiday break. Please see a separate email from our Enrolments team for further details.

Kind regards

