



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL COVID-19 #9

Dear Parents & Carers,

Week Eleven has very much seen our staff in the learner seats as we have completed four very full and demanding days of Professional Learning. The time has been well spent reflecting on what has worked well and what needs refining or improving as we prepare for a Remote Learning mode from the Commencement of Term Two.

This final Covid-19 update for Term One will also feature some end of term reflections from Mrs Anna Caldwell, Head of Senior School and Mrs Fiona Wake, Head of Junior School.

CURRENT STATUS

There are **no** reported cases of COVID-19 infection in any of our students, staff or direct contacts. NSW Health has confirmed two cases in Armidale and one in Uralla.

UPDATES

- o The College remained **open** for our Pathways students this week with all attending their regular class program.

- o Our Pathways and International students will remain on campus for the duration of the holiday break and are effectively living in a 'gated community'

- o The **College Office** is closed over the Easter Weekend and will reopen on Wednesday, 15 April

- o Staff training this week focused on the programs and platforms to support our Remote Learning model. This included **Zoom, Edumate Spaces and Canvas**, a learning management system which will replace Google Classroom throughout the Senior School
- o Due to the four pupil free days held this week, teaching and learning across the College will **resume on Monday, 27 April, not Tuesday, 28 April** as originally planned
- o Our **Remote Learning Model** will be in place from Monday, 27 April. The College will be open with supervision provided for any girls whose parents work in an essential service or whose daughter is unable to access the Remote Learning program from home

REMOTE LEARNING MODEL

Junior School

- o The Remote Learning model trialled throughout Week 10 will continue with some refinement.
- o More detailed information will be provided to parents towards the end of the holiday break.

Senior School

- o The Senior School will be adopting a blended program of synchronous (timetabled Zoom classes) and asynchronous (work to be completed within a set time frame) learning.
- o The timetable has been condensed to one week, not two weekly as in our current structure
- o A weekly schedule for each subject will outline teaching and learning expectations
- o Assembly, Pastoral Care and Chapel will take place as per our usual schedule
- o An additional Pastoral Care session will feature as Wellbeing Wednesday
- o Students will access their learning tasks through the Canvas platform

- o Increased Learning Support is planned for girls who find Remote Learning challenging
- o A Remote Learning Pack will be provided and updated as required each fortnight with materials and non-digital learning tasks
- o Regular check-ins with parents and students are planned

ACTIONS

- o Parents will receive an invitation to attend our Remote Learning Launch Webinar which is planned for Friday, 24 April
- o The Webinar will guide parents and students through the Remote Learning Model as well as the technology we are using to support Remote Learning
- o Remote Learning Packs will be available for collection from the College on Friday 24 April also. A mail out service will be provided for those families unable to collect the Remote Learning Packs in person
- o Monday 27 April will feature our Term Two Whole School Commencement Service

GOVERNMENT ADVICE

The **Commonwealth Health Minister** has identified the Easter long weekend as an important time in our national campaign against Covid-19. This is true for the whole of the school holiday period. Travel and social gathering restrictions apply. However, exercise is encouraged and we live in a region surrounded by natural beauty, enjoy the Autumn sunshine and the changing of the season.

The **Federal Minister of Education, the Hon Dan Tehan MP**, sent a letter today to the Independent Schools Council of Australia expressing his thanks to Independent Schools for the efforts they are making to provide education under difficult circumstances. He reiterated the Australian Government's request to keep schools open as a condition of school approval under the *Australian Education Act 2013*. An excerpt of the letter reads as follows:

"I'm asking schools to retain physical classroom environment for the children of parents who may not have a choice of keeping children at home. These might be the children of essential frontline workers such as paramedics, nurses, doctors and police officers who, in the absence of a classroom option, are forced to make the decision to stop working in our central services. Students should also not be refused physical classroom access based on their parent's employment."

This affirms the approach the College has already implemented, so will require no further changes. We are committed to providing access to on campus learning for those families who need it. Term Two will commence with our Remote Learning Model which students who do attend on campus will also follow.

2020 HSC- NESA UPDATE

Despite some confusion this week as Victoria announced that it would delay the commencement of the VCE examinations, NESA (NSW Educational Standards Authority) affirmed that the 2020 HSC was going ahead as scheduled. Our Music students and families have received advice regarding changed arrangements for the HSC performance assessment. We are still awaiting advice regarding Design and Technology, Visual Arts and English Extension 2.

On behalf of the Executive and Staff of the College, I trust you enjoy a period of rest and reflection of the value of those relationships which make and shape us..

"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philipians 2:5-11

Kind regards,

Mrs Nicola Taylor, Principal

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL

Mrs Anna Caldwell

We have now come to the end of Term One and what a term it has been! There have been so many positive, engaging classes, activities and events, lots of handwashing and physical distancing then thrown into this mix, moving towards a Remote Learning environment.

Week 10 was very quiet at school, with most students learning at home. Friday was the last day for wearing the Summer Uniform until the start of Term 4 and for our Year 12 students, the last time before they sit their HSC examinations.

The staff have been in school all this week learning lots of new IT skills and collaborating in the development of our Remote Learning Programs. Term 2 is looking very exciting!

At the heart of all we do, is our students. Girls, I would like you to know that we are thinking of you and we hope you are safe and well. We miss your smiles, we miss your stories, we miss you and we miss our classrooms with the energy that you bring!

I wish you all a safe, healthy and happy school holiday, a very Happy Easter.

Term 2.

Winter Uniform is worn during Terms 2 & 3.

Remote Learning and Attendance.

- o Attendance each school day in Remote Learning is **compulsory**.
- o Roll call will be conducted each morning in Pastoral Care at 8.40am and again for each timetabled learning session. Students are expected to be in every remote learning class on time and prepared to learn.
- o If your daughter is unwell and unable to join the remote learning classes, please contact the College.

Remote Learning Sport and Co-Curricular.

Sport and Co-Curricular activities will be run remotely in Term 2. More information and schedules will be sent out soon.

Duke of Edinburgh's International Award during COVID-19

All Adventurous Journey's and Gold Residential Projects are on hold until the social distancing and self-isolation measures have been lifted.

Awardees can however keep working on their Skills, Service and Physical Recreation activities. Please visit

[https://dukeofed.com.au/delivering-the-award-during-the-covid-19-virus-outbreak/fo](https://dukeofed.com.au/delivering-the-award-during-the-covid-19-virus-outbreak/)

r advice and ideas of what you can do at home. If you have any questions or need help with your Award, please contact Mrs Caldwell or Mrs Hey.

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL

Mrs Fiona Wake

We have come to the end of a term that will go down in history. Our students, families, carers and staff have displayed, care, a strong sense of community and consideration as we have together faced the challenge of taking teaching and learning off campus. Yet, we have still remained connected in more ways than one, thank you for your honest and constructive feedback on Week 10's Remote Learning experiences.

I would like to extend my gratitude for the positive words the staff and I have received either through conversations, emails, thoughtful cards and gifts of appreciation. We have certainly been humbled by these acts of kindness and encouraging words - We DO School, just a little differently at present!

In the Junior School we have approached the final weeks of the term with careful consideration and perspective in a measured way, seeing this time as an opportunity to reflect on good practice, clever practice and practices that will not work remotely. This has provided the opportunity to be creative and use the collective strengths of

staff to make a real difference, this has strengthened our team and 'Oh My Goodness', our IT skills have received a good cut and polish.

Have a wonderful Easter break, enjoy this time with loved ones, making memories, embracing quality time together and seeing to all those jobs around the house that have been hard to get too or on that TO DO List for a while. The Wake household is equipping itself in readiness to renovate, I am just not sure whether the DIY option is the cleverest one - I will keep you posted!

Remote Learning READINESS!

Engaging in clever and creative ways from afar

Making memories, movies & memos to capture our learning

Over the phone, Over email, Over an i-pad, Over LIVE video recordings and chats!

Together we stay connected, tell stories, talk through Zoom, take this opportunity to thrive, displaying self-discipline and tenacity

Everyone is doing this together

Learning Kits

Every week

Are ensuring

Remote learning

Navigates

Interesting

Nuances

Graciously!

We welcome any photos our PLC Armidale families may wish to share of how they have celebrated Easter or made the most of their holiday at home. Please send your photos through to communications@plcarmidale.nsw.edu.au for all to enjoy.



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