



28/3/2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As Week 9 drew to a close we had learned valuable lessons about what would work well and what would not be as effective in a move to a mode of learning we will now refer to as **Remote Learning**.

It has been a week of seemingly conflicting messages including those of our Federal Government and our State Premier's advice to schools. It has been a week where we sought to operate the campus with a 'business as usual with increased hygiene and social distancing' approach. The students and staff are to be commended for the positive, engaged and congenial manner they displayed creating a sense of calm in a time of change and uncertainty.

Current Status

There are no reported cases of COVID-19 infection in any of our students, staff or direct contacts. NSW Health statistics for confirmed cases by Local Government Area has listed Inverell, Glen Innes and Tamworth but not listed Armidale.

Updates

Week 10: 30/03 - 03/04

- The College **remains open** though many parents have indicated their daughters will be working remotely.
- Classes **are being taught** by teachers with lessons and materials provided online for those who are not able to attend.
- **Year 12** are encouraged to attend school for their timetabled classes only, not including study periods. Year 12 have permission to arrive late or depart early.

- **Attendance will be checked** for all students whether on campus or learning remotely.
- Junior School '**Remote Learning Kits**' were distributed on Friday afternoon.
- Junior School girls may attend school this week but must bring their kit with them.
- Most of our Boarders have returned to their homes or will have done so by the end of Week 10.
- Our International students will remain as boarders with a 'gated community' approach for the rest of the term and throughout the holidays.

Additional Briefings

The Prime Minister's Press Conference, held at lunchtime yesterday 27/03/20, affirmed the Australian Government and Chief Medical Officer's advice that schools are still safe places for students to be, however added to his comments earlier in the Week regarding Term Two and beyond...

*"But the point is, as we have now entered into a transition phase with schools, where education needs to continue to be delivered, but over the next few weeks, the schools themselves will be preparing, together with - on a national basis, seeking to get some consistency on this - about when schools reopen on the other side of the school holidays. **It won't look like it has looked up until now**".*

Implications for PLC Armidale

- Unless directed otherwise by the relevant government and health authorities, PLC Armidale **will remain open in Term Two** to provide supervision and assistance to families who are required to work.
- We are preparing for a model of '**Remote Learning**' that will apply to all students from the commencement of Term Two, including those students who may complete their work on campus.
- We will work with our **Boarding Families** to ensure their daughters have access to teaching and learning, especially those with limited internet connection.
- We will make **continuity of teaching and learning a priority for our Year 12 students**.

Actions

- Please advise the College by emailing the [Junior School](#) or [Senior School](#) if your daughter is not attending one or more days in Week 10. Please confirm if this is due to illness or seeking exemption due to COVID-19.
- Familiarise yourself with the [Week 10 Junior School Learning Plan](#) or the [Week 10 Senior School Learning Plan](#).
- Zoom will be used for meetings, some feedback sessions and real-time (synchronous) classes, some of this is being trialled in Week 10.
- Feedback will be sought next week from students, staff and parents about aspects of the **Remote Learning trial** to inform our ongoing planning and preparation for Term Two.

As we consider what a Remote Learning mode will look like, we want this to be more than an online or digital classroom. A characteristic of PLC Armidale is the engagement of the girls with each other and with their teachers which sparks creativity, connection and community.

Fostering a sense of belonging when physical separation and distance prevail will be a focus of our preparation for Remote Learning. It has been encouraging to receive a number of emails already over the weekend from girls who have great suggestions about how this can be achieved. We look forward to continued contributions as we care for our students, and work with our families into the future.

Kind regards,



V. M. Taylor.