



ST GEORGE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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27 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I want to acknowledge and thank each of you for the way in which you have responded to the challenges over the past couple of weeks, especially the last few days. I hope this letter finds you and your family healthy and managing well enough.

It's been a tumultuous time for all of us. I am aware of parents who have lost jobs or have had severe interruption to their business. These are very difficult times. The School Board, the Business Manager and I have been meeting to determine how we will support families experiencing COVID-19 related financial difficulties. More information regarding this will come next week. Our thoughts and prayers are with families facing financial shock.

As a School our primary focus at this extraordinary time, apart from the health and wellbeing of our students, staff and broader community is to continue the quality teaching and learning for students.

I am encouraged by the way our staff have responded to this challenge and how quickly we were able to move to online/remote/distance learning with the significant majority of students learning from home. There is an ever-decreasing percentage of students at School.

I am writing to parents today to advise that in the last two weeks of term staff will be involved in further training in delivery of online/distance/remote learning. To assist this, **we request that from Monday, 30 March, only students whose parents are employed in essential services (or where other personal circumstances require) should be sent to school.** In the next two weeks we are testing and developing the capacity of our staff to work from home. Schools continue to be viewed as an essential service, providing support to the critical functions of our community.

Your child's respective Head of Department will communicate with you regarding any changes to the delivery of learning.

As we continue to adapt to this new normal way of learning and being, please encourage and pray for one another and keep in contact with the school via the channels established by your child's Head of Department.

I have witnessed displays of patience, kindness, thoughtfulness, creativity and compassion throughout the school community. This is so important.

The School's staff have been enormously encouraged by the many emails from deeply appreciative parents for all the School is doing for their children while they are learning from home. Thank you, your encouragement makes a huge difference.

I pray that as you experience greater physical distancing at this time, you are increasingly aware of God's nearness.

"Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you." Psalm 55:22

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Honor', with a stylized, cursive script.

James Honor

Principal