



22 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our Prime Minister has just had a press conference and informed the nation that at this stage schools will remain open for the rest of the current school term. It was also suggested that as parents and guardians you have a choice whether your child attends school for the rest of this term.

At Mater Maria, we support parents' choice in this situation and we understand that each family are making decisions based on their own circumstances. I do however need to clarify what will be offered to students at home whilst the school remains open. Whilst the school is open, teachers have been asked to supply direction to students via Google classroom so that students who are at home for whatever reason can follow the learning that is occurring in their classes. We do not have the staff or facilities to run both an online school and a traditional school but our teachers will do their best to answer any queries as quickly as they can. Please keep in mind that they are still teaching the students in the classroom so there will not be an immediate response to their queries. We will only be enacting our home-based learning model once the school has been closed down from continuing 'normal learning' and the staff are available to facilitate this model.

Due to the lack of clarity of when or if schools may be closed to 'normal learning' we have decided to cancel all in-class assessment tasks for the rest of this term. Decisions on how we will manage the potential rescheduling any of these tasks will be made once we have a clearer idea of the impact of school closures. **Please note, if the assessment task is a hand-in task, students are expected to submit this to their teacher online on the due date/time unless they are unwell.**

If you choose to keep your children home to complete their school work, we will be registering the student's attendance as 'Flexible Timetable' which means they are considered present and doing school work in an alternate location (at home). Please inform the office of this decision. Please note that our Prime Minister made it clear that parents who make this choice need to ensure that their children are at home and not congregating in other areas.

If your child is away from school because they are unwell or become unwell and can not engage with the learning outlined in Google classroom, please contact the office to inform us and it will be registered as a sick day. Your child will be assumed sick if you do not contact the College and inform us otherwise.

I would encourage all parents to view their child's attendance in '*Compass*' to ensure that the administration of recording attendance is correct and that your child is attending all classes if that is the decision you have made as a family.

We are still open for students to continue their normal classes and will continue to do our best with the social distancing measures and the increased hygiene practices mentioned in the previous correspondence.

I thank you all for your understanding at this difficult time and we pray that all in our community keep well.

Yours sincerely

Marc Reicher  
Principal  
Mater Maria Catholic College



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