



SHALOM COLLEGE

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Wednesday, 18 March 2020

Dear Parents & Care Givers,

We are all continuing to be bombarded by Covid19 news, rumours and myths. I am writing to you to give you an update on how things are progressing at Shalom. School is open and classes are being taught.

Quite a number of families are choosing to keep their children at home for a variety of reasons. To assist us, I would really urge parents to use the email absentee line to advise rather than ringing the College office – absentees@shalomcollege.com

The latest information that we have been given from the Diocese is to advise both students and staff who are currently displaying 'flu like' symptoms, not to attend school unless the individual can produce a medical certificate confirming that they are not contagious.

If your child is not at school and is well enough to keep up with their work, please have them email their teacher to advise of their absence and seek work with which to carry on. I know that there will be many of our staff who will have already spoken to their classes and pointed out to them where Term plans and resources are for them on the LMS or on OneNote or Google Classroom which would mean that they can just continue with their work from home. Please do not ring and ask our office staff to send work home.

All families returning to Australia from overseas are now required by the Australian government to self-quarantine for 14 days. More information on the self-quarantine process can be found at <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/take-action/self-quarantine>. At this point, even though it seems incongruous, those who live in the same house as the self-quarantined, are not required to do the same unless they are symptomatic.

For students who will be having assessments and particularly those in Years 11 or 12, I would ask that you make every effort for them to attend those assessments – even if we will need to provide a more isolated environment for that piece of assessment at Shalom. We do not want students unnecessarily disadvantaged academically in the current environment.

We have made changes here at school. We won't be having Assemblies for a while and we have made changes in the playground to spread students out more. We are also going to be ramping up our cleaning procedures for classrooms and common areas.

As you are probably aware by now, school sport has been suspended for the time being. We also made the difficult decision to move the College Formal from its traditional date in May to November. All of our Outdoor Education Camps and Retreats that were scheduled for Term 2 will now not be overnight activities.

One of the unfortunate rumours circulating at the moment is that a student or a close family member within the Shalom community has been diagnosed with Covid19. This is just inaccurate and unhelpful.

Additionally, the coming months may prove particularly challenging for families financially. As always, I would strongly encourage any family who may need assistance from the College during this time to contact me. We will always do our absolute best to support Shalom families.

As you see in the media each day, the landscape is changing fairly quickly. We will do all we are able to support student learning and wellbeing through this difficult period of time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. McMahon', written in a cursive style.

Dan McMahon
PRINCIPAL

