



ST EDMUND'S COLLEGE
from the Office of the Principal

A Catholic Boys' College in the
Edmund Rice Tradition

(02) 6295 3598
sec.act.edu.au

23 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to provide you with the latest information about COVID-19 and its impact on St Edmund's College.

The ACT Minister for Education announced that from Tuesday 24 March 2020 all ACT government schools will transition to pupil-free until the school holidays, due to begin on Friday 10 April 2020 (Good Friday). St Edmund's College is following the same advice. We will transition to an online teaching and learning environment until the school holidays commence.

I can now confirm with you that we will commence pupil-free days from Tuesday 24 March 2020 until the Term 1 school holidays. We will then communicate with you again regarding the situation towards the end of the school holidays.

During the pupil-free period, we will continue to have all staff working at the school so they can continue with creating online resources and training in new ways of delivering the curriculum.

As of tomorrow you will not receive the daily text message for absences as all students will be entered on our records as being explained absences.

Students have been asked to clear their lockers today and take home all the resources they need to undertake the online teaching and learning program. This includes textbooks and class materials.

If items need to be collected from lockers, parents are asked to report to Reception so that a member of staff can accompany them to the locker area.

During this pupil-free period, the Uniform Shop will only open on Wednesdays from 2pm-6pm for the rest of the term, and then revert to normal holiday opening times.

Essential Service Workers

The College will remain open for the children of those parents who are involved in delivering essential services during this period, including teachers and health services. These students will participate in their online teaching and learning program here at school and will be supervised by a member of staff. If you are in this position, I would ask that you contact the College at this email address, principal@stedmunds.act.edu.au, to inform us that you are an essential service worker and that your child will continue to attend the College until Thursday 9 May.

If it is impossible for you to have your child at home and you are not an essential service worker, please feel free to send your child to school. These students will participate in their online teaching and learning program here at school and will be supervised by a member of staff. There will be no face to face teaching during this time.

Students who are coming to school from tomorrow (Tuesday 24 March) should meet each morning in the quad and a roll will be taken so we know who is in the school. Students would then need to attend all day or have parental permission to leave during the day via Student Services.

The canteen will be open during this time for limited breakfast purchases before school and only for ordered items for recess and lunch.

Parents should check daily if the remaining school bus services will still be operating. As of today, buses were still operating but this may change over the coming days.

Nature of the Online Teaching and Learning Program

Online teaching and learning will commence for our students on Monday 30 March and will continue until Wednesday 8 April. School holidays will commence as scheduled on Friday 10 April (Good Friday). The online teaching and learning program for our Junior School students will be quite different to the program for students in Years 7 – 12. Mr David Kelly, Assistant Principal Junior School, will provide our Junior School parents with specific information.

Students in Years 7 – 12 are required to follow their regular school timetable online. The online teaching and learning program will be active. This means that your son's teacher will be online at the time of the timetabled lesson, engaging actively with students. The teacher will take the roll during that time and students will engage actively with the teacher. Our online teaching and learning program will not be a static program where lessons and materials are placed in Canvas with students left to work on these on their own. As such, if your son is not available on a particular day, we would require you to inform Student Services of his absence (as you would for a normal absence from school). Teachers will follow up any students who are not actively engaging in the online teaching and learning program.

More information will be sent out later about arrangements for assessment, especially for students in Years 11 and 12.

I am aware that a small number of our families reside in an area where there is no or poor access to Wi-Fi or networks. I would ask these families to contact the College to discuss alternative options (Years 4 – 6 contact Mr Kelly; Years 7 – 12 contact the Head of House).

Wellbeing Services and Communication

It is important we can provide as much continuity as possible for each student's education, no matter what the circumstances. We want to support our students to remain connected to their current teachers as much as possible.

We will continue providing our student wellbeing services during this time. Please do not hesitate to contact our Heads of House or College Counsellor should you need to.

I would encourage you to continue your communication with staff from the College as you have in the past. This might include a question to your son's teacher regarding his progress, or a discussion with a Head of House or the Counsellor regarding your son's wellbeing.

College Events

NAPLAN (Years 5, 7, 9)

- The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Education Council announced last week that there will be no NAPLAN tests this year. The NAPLAN tests for 2020 have been cancelled.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- We announced last week that all co-curricular activities have been suspended for the moment. This includes all training and games for co-curricular sports and all meetings for non-sport activities.
- All overseas trips and local excursions have been cancelled.

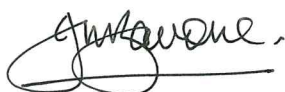
SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- Parent/ teacher meetings scheduled for early Term 2 have been cancelled. We will explore other options and formats where we can communicate with you regarding your son's academic progress.
- The College musical, "Beauty and the Beast" has been postponed for later in the year. We will inform you at a more appropriate time when the musical will be staged.
- The *Rugby Sports Dinner* has been cancelled and the *Blue and White Ball* has been postponed (no new date as yet). Members of the community who have already purchased tickets for these events will be issued a refund. Please direct any enquiries about two these events to the organising bodies.

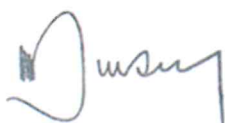
I would like to thank our parent community for your overwhelming support during this time. Your messages have been most welcome and encouraging. I recognise that there may be some of transition difficulties and confusion of mixed messages from government agencies and hope that there is now some clarity to this very difficult and challenging situation. This email would not answer all of your questions regarding our move to a pupil-free environment with online teaching and learning. We will inform you of further details in terms of processes and procedures.

As you can appreciate, this is a fast-moving situation and we will do our best to keep you informed. Please keep safe during this time and remember that the strength of St Edmund's is its community – we want to keep this community strong even during this time of transition to new ways.

Sincerely,



Mr Joe Zavone
College Principal



Mr Wayne Tinsey
Executive Director
Edmund Rice Education Australia