



COVID-19 UPDATE – 15 May 2020

School arrangements commencing Term 2, Week 4, Monday 18 May 2020.

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your ongoing support over the last two months as we navigated our way through the COVID-19 crisis. Whilst the crisis is a long way from concluding, I must say that seeing so many of our students return to normal classes has been uplifting. An empty school is a very strange place indeed and, quite simply, we missed the kids!

I am very much aware that whilst school life is returning to normal; life remains far from normal for many of our families. You remain in our thoughts and I encourage you to contact us if there is anything we can do to be of assistance.

No doubt many of you will be aware that the State Government has announced changes to education based on a review of current arrangements and updated health advice. This communication seeks to inform you of the changes announced and, hopefully, answer some of the questions you may have.

The following questions are answered (as best as possible) in this communication:

- What decisions have been made?
- What if my child has a medical condition?
- What if a family member in our home has a medical condition?
- What are you doing to keep my child safe at the College?
- Are all College activities back to normal?
- Will 'social distancing' be occurring?
- Are there any changes to curriculum, examinations or Reporting to Parents?
- What if I have more questions?

What decisions have been made?

The State Government and the Department of Education made the following decisions and statements:

- As of Monday, 18 May 2020 **all students are expected to attend school**, except for those students medically referred to learn from home.
- This means students are either:

- at school;
 - have a medical referral to learn from home; or
 - recorded as absent if they do not attend.
- **If a student does not attend school without a medical reason, they will be marked as absent and will not be provided a learning program.**
- For parents and carers with medical advice that their child should not attend school, we will work with you in partnership with the *School of Special Educational Needs: Medical and Mental Health* to support your child's learning from home.
- The extra cleaning and hygiene practices implemented at the start of Term 2 will continue.
- Parents and carers are not to enter school grounds unless they have a pre-arranged appointment.

What if my child has a medical condition?

It is important to distinguish between a child who has been *medically referred to learn from home* (specifically related to COVID-19) and a child who is otherwise unwell.

If your child has been medically referred to learn from home; you will continue to be provided with a learning program. Support will be provided from the College, as well as from the *School of Special Educational Needs: Medical and Mental Health* (SSEN: MMH), which is a specialist school within the Department of Education.

If you have a child with who has been medically referred to learn from home, please email Angela Trees, Deputy Principal at Angela.Trees@education.wa.edu.au or me at Melissa.Gillett@education.wa.edu.au and we will make contact with you.

If your child has a pre-existing medical condition known to the College, then it is likely that you will not be required to provide additional medical evidence; however each case will be assessed by SSEN: MMH. If there is a need for additional medical documentation you will be contacted by SSEN: MMH and/or College staff to discuss this. Your child will not be marked as absent during this period.

If your child is sick, then normal College procedures will apply. In the first instance, you should notify the College that your child is unwell by:

- Emailing the College at this address: JohnForrest.SC.Absentees@education.wa.edu.au
- Sending a text message to 0407199 574
- Completing the absentee online form on the College website.

In most cases work is not provided for children who are unwell; as we encourage you to focus on recovering your health.

What if a family member in our home has a medical condition?

If your child has been medically referred to learn from home due to a family member's medical condition (who resides at the same house as your child) you will continue to be provided with a learning program. Support will be provided from the College, as well as from the *School of Special Educational Needs: Medical and Mental Health* (SSEN: MMH), which is a specialist school within the Department of Education.

If you have a child with who has been medically referred to learn from home, please email Angela Trees, Deputy Principal at Angela.Trees@education.wa.edu.au or me at Melissa.Gillett@education.wa.edu.au and we will make contact with you.

If your family member has a pre-existing medical condition known to the College, then additional medical evidence may not be required; however each case will be assessed by SSEN: MMH. If there is a need for additional medical documentation you will be contacted by SSEN: MMH and/or College staff to discuss this. Your child will not be marked as absent during this period.

What are you doing to keep my child safe at the College?

Arrangements with regard to safety, reduced direct contact, enhanced personal hygiene practices, and strengthened cleaning regimes in the College are unchanged. Details of these arrangements can be found in my last update on 25 April 2020. You can access that update [here](#)

Practising good hygiene can protect against infection and prevent the spread of viruses. Good personal hygiene includes:

- Frequently washing hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or using hand sanitiser
- Refraining from touching mouth and nose
- If coughing or sneezing, covering your nose and mouth with a paper tissue or flexed elbow
- Dispose of tissue immediately after use and wash hands
- Not sharing water bottles or food
- Avoiding close contact with anyone if you, or they, have a cold or flu-like symptoms (maintain a distance of at least one metre).

As is always encouraged, **please keep your child home from school if they are unwell**. If they have a fever, runny nose, sore throat and/or cough they must stay home and follow medical advice. If a student comes to school with a cold, we will contact families to collect them and take them home. If we suspect a student has coronavirus, based on their symptoms and history, we will isolate them and follow health guidelines as published by the Health Department of Western Australia.

Are all College activities back to normal?

Some College activities remain modified or restricted. These include:

- No physical contact permitted between students (e.g. Physical Education and Dance classes)
- Removal of activities involving shared equipment that cannot be easily cleaned or disinfected (e.g. welding jackets).
- Students will not be permitted to share equipment whilst at school (e.g. devices, stationary). Please note: If your child does not have their own device, arrangements will be made to provide a device for your child whilst they are at school; although it is important to note that devices are limited and will not be provided to students who forget to bring their own device from home.
- The weights room will be closed.
- Assemblies, camps and interschool activities will not be conducted.
- **Parents are not permitted to enter school grounds unless a member of the College staff has pre-arranged an appointment with them and provided the name of the parent to Front Office staff.**

Some after-school College activities have (or will shortly) **recommence**, such as the Engineering Club and Bush Rangers. Staff members coordinating these activities will advise you if/when the activities recommence and if there are any restrictions/changes to the activities.

A small number of excursions and incursions that are required for the purposes of senior school course completion may now proceed; however they cannot exceed 20 people in total.

Will ‘social distancing’ be occurring?

As per my previous communication, the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) has determined that the “density rule” of not more than one person per four square metres is neither appropriate nor practical in classrooms or corridors, nor maintaining 1.5 metre between students during classroom activities.

The AHPPC has, however, noted that the greatest risk of transmission in the school environment is between adults. As such, College staff will continue to be required to maintain physical distancing between themselves and each other.

Are there any changes to curriculum, examinations or Reporting to Parents?

Along with the State Government, the School Curriculum and Standards Authority announced the following:

- **Year 12 ATAR examinations:** The 2020 ATAR course written exams will go ahead as scheduled from November 2. Written examinations will take the same form as previous years, with a three-hour duration.
- **Year 12 Externally Set Tasks (ESTs):** Schools were previously advised that all ESTs were postponed due to COVID-19. ESTs will occur later in 2020; although the date has not yet been determined.
- **Year 9 OLNA:** Year 9 students who were unable to sit the NAPLAN this year due to COVID-19 will have the opportunity to attempt OLNA later this year. Participation will be optional for Year 9 students. Further details about this will be provided to parents in due course.
- **Reporting to Parents:** Parents will receive a Semester 1 report with information about students' learning progress; however only students in Years 11 and 12 will receive an A – E Grade. Teachers will continue to provide informal feedback to parents and carers throughout the semester. These changes recognise the impact of COVID-19 on teaching in Western Australia, and provides parents and carers with reliable information regarding student progress.

The School Curriculum and Standards Authority has published curriculum and assessment advice to support students and teachers, which can be found here: [SCSA Advice](#)

Note: Some College Assessment Schedules have been modified as a result of COVID-19. Any changes have/will be communicated by teaching staff to students.

What if I have more questions?

If you have further questions, please email Angela Trees, Deputy Principal at Angela.Trees@education.wa.edu.au or me at Melissa.Gillett@education.wa.edu.au Please note that, given the volume of emails we are receiving, it may take some time to respond.

You may also wish to access the dedicated COVID-19 information available on the College website This information can be accessed here: [JFSC COVID-19 Information](#)

Once again, I thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation during these unprecedented times.

Yours sincerely

MELISSA GILLETT
PRINCIPAL

15 May 2020