



ASSUMPTION COLLEGE

18 March, 2020.

Dear Parents and Carers,

COVIN-19 Update - 18 March, 2020

Firstly, thanks everyone for your kindness and (relative!) sanity towards the College through this challenging period! Listening to my Principal colleagues at other schools, I am deeply grateful that so many of you have been calm and trusting of us as we try and find our way through the various stages of this pandemic. Interestingly (and happily!), our absenteeism amongst students is still very low - only slightly above a normal school day (and still far less than Athletics Carnival day!).

BUSINESS AS USUAL

We are keen to keep learning as normal open for as long as we can. Our community seems quite healthy (colds and a few sore throats aside) and are calm and focussed on their day-to-day work. Of course, we all know this could change with one test, but let's commit to maintaining normality as much as possible.

BOARDING

As you would appreciate, boarding is different situation. Again, our hope at this point in time is to keep the boarding house functioning for as long as the day-school is opened. Depending on variations such as where each boarding family lives, some will elect to remove their children before the school holidays. We're supporting families in this decision, and balancing this as best as possible with those who want to ensure their children have face-to-face access to their teachers for as long as possible.

TEN QUESTIONS IN PREPARATION FOR ONLINE LEARNING

1. What does online learning look like?

Teachers will provide learning experiences to their students remotely using an online curriculum delivered to the family home. The curriculum will be delivered through video conferencing (WEBEX), the SIMON portal, Google Classroom and via email.

The scheduled timetable will run at the normal times, with students joining their classmates to complete their work online from their family homes. Sometimes this will include a video-conference, but teachers will certainly be available to students via email during the class times listed below. We have modified the timetable to help teachers and students manage their other responsibilities throughout the day (students simply follow their normal daily lesson schedule on SIMON).

Learning Mentor Group: 9.00am – 9.15am
(LMs will check-in with students most days during this time)
Period 1: 9.30am – 10.30am
Period 2: 11.00am – 12.00pm
Period 3 12.15pm – 1.15pm
Period 4: 2.00pm – 3.00pm

2. How will the students know how to use this technology?

These past few weeks, teachers have been practising the use of WEBEX with students. SIMON will remain the place for all learning content. Both WEBEX and SIMON will be our main online communication tools for conversations between school and home. In addition, a demonstration lesson will be filmed and streamed online so that students and parents can train together.

3. When will this happen?

Good question! As soon as the State Government urges us to discontinue face-to-face learning the College will send an email to advise when online learning will begin.

4. How long will the students be working from home?

We will await the advice of the State Government. Whatever the outcome, our staff are ready to provide meaningful learning experiences for our students for as long as necessary.

5. What about student social-emotional wellbeing?

Our staff and senior students have been preparing means by which to encourage/support students to socialise, and how to also promote healthy living. There will be emails to students and invitations to join various online 'clubs' as time progresses. We will also use our social media pages to assist with this (Insta, Facebook and Twitter). We're also planning some online games and House Competitions for students to get involved in.

As always, Learning Mentors will be your first point of call if you are worried about your child's health and wellbeing. If you would like to contact our counsellors, you can do so at Student Wellbeing (wellbeing@assumption.vic.edu.au).

6. Who do I go to if I need help with the technology?

Students can email the ICT Team (ict.support@assumption.vic.edu.au) with issues accessing online learning. If there are questions about the learning itself (eg. if your teacher is unwell or not available), contact can be made with the Learning Leaders (LearningLeaders@assumption.vic.edu.au) who will help find a teacher in a related subject to assist you. You can also ring Reception and your request will be forwarded.

7. What should we consider when a student is attending class from home?

Details regarding students with Unit 3 SACs during this period will be provided separately from the Senior School office. In most cases, the focus of student learning will be on course work and related tasks rather than formal assessment.

8. What might a remote lesson look like?

To ensure our Child Safe responsibilities, when at home, students are not to access online WEBEX classes from their bedroom. Other more 'public' locations around the home are to be arranged. Students are to wear neat, casual clothes when learning at home and ensure that the images behind them are appropriate for a school class.



When accessing the curriculum online, it may be that students are not on line for the whole 60 minute period but that they will be working on various activities for the period and will re-join the class as directed by the teacher. Students who seek assistance from the Personalised Learning/Learning Enhancement Team (learningenhancement@assumption.vic.edu.au) and Student Wellbeing (wellbeing@assumption.vic.edu.au) will have separate contact made with them as required. Private music/dance lessons will be on hold for the time being.

9. How does it work again?

SIMON & Google Classroom

SIMON is our vehicle to communicate work requirements and setting and assessing work. Google Classroom is a tool to help disseminate learning activities and allow students to work together.

Video Classes

WEBEX, a simple video conferencing tool has been chosen to connect students and teachers.

Email Contact

This is an effective tool for immediate and constant communication with students and parents.

10. How will I know what's going on at the school during this time?

Communication to the Assumption College community will continue to be via email from the Principal. The College will also use Notifications in the App, and in an absolute emergency, SMS.

As always, we hope that by providing this information, we can help you to plan matters with your family and ensure your children engage with their education in the most positive ways. We will be releasing some infographics with more simple versions of this information in the coming days, and hope this is also of use to you.

Kind regards,



**Kate Fogarty
Principal**

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