



ASSUMPTION COLLEGE

12 March, 2020.

Dear Assumption College Parents and Carers,

I thought it timely to update you on our preparations for the possible impact of COVID-19. Our first priority at Assumption College is the health and safety of our school community.

I want to reassure you that the school is well-prepared for the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus).

We are being provided the latest advice from the Australian and Victorian Chief Medical Officers by the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd to ensure that our school practices are helping to keep our school community safe from the outbreak.

Any incidents that arise will be addressed in accordance with our Critical Incident and Emergency Management Plan. We will also have access to resources and support from Catholic Education Melbourne and the Department of Health and Human Services.

I am aware of concerns about the disruption to teaching, especially among families of students in Year 12. The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority, which is responsible for the VCE, is aware of the situation and has advised that it will work with schools to ensure continuity of learning for all students.

With SIMON, Google Classroom and an online conferencing tool (webex), we believe we are well placed to ensure your son/daughter can undertake their normal learning routines. Our staff are planning so that their courses can be moved online, and students can work from home. In terms of your own planning, it would be good to flag your expectations with your sons and daughters early. Should the shutdown occur, their teachers will be setting work for each of the four periods of the school day, and expecting that work to be completed in reasonable timeframes. Our goal is to maintain our school learning routines as much as possible. To this end, the teachers will be making themselves available to students throughout the day (via email, Google Classroom and webex), especially at their usually scheduled class times. Our Wellbeing Team are also planning for ways to stay in touch with students and to assist with their wellbeing.

As parents, you have a critical role in helping the school manage this situation:

- Exercise good judgment by keeping children home if they are feeling unwell for any reason
- Talk to children about the situation, as they may be feeling anxious or stressed. You have a key role in helping students feel prepared and safe
- Encourage children to be proactive and committed to their schoolwork, and to stay connected with the school and their teachers.

The Department of Health and Human Services has a number of resources on its website, which explain the virus, detail risk-reduction practices and behaviours, and answer frequently asked questions. These are available at www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus.

You can also find information about Catholic education's response at <http://www.cecv.catholic.edu.au/Coronavirus-information-for-parents>.

This is an evolving situation, but we will keep you updated as things change.

I ask that you continue to work closely with the school and to contact my office should you have any new concerns.

Thank you for your support as we work to keep our students safe.

Kind regards,



Kate Fogarty
Principal

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