



ASSUMPTION COLLEGE

25 March, 2020.

Dear Parents & Carers,

At times like these it's difficult to know what to say. On the one hand, I want to say that I hope the school holidays have started well for you and your family, whilst on the other, it is impossible not to acknowledge that these are unprecedented and difficult times. Please know that we here at the College are feeling as disorientated as you no doubt are, and have felt doubly so without our students here with us.

The catch-cry here at school over the past few weeks has been the necessity to 'keep students at the centre' of all of our decisions and actions. Our staff have been marvellous in their care and attention to detail in the social-emotional wellbeing of our students, which they have prioritized equally alongside each student's learning needs. I am so proud of them all and I know that many of you have passed on your thanks to individual staff over the past week. I thank you for taking the time to do this, as it has raised spirits and re-motivated the good and generous people who help you raise your precious children into the young adults we want and need them to be.

Important Update about College fees

I wanted to provide you with an update on our approach to school fees for 2020.

Firstly, I am aware that many parents will have lost significant employment or business income due to coronavirus. The school's immediate priority is to provide as much stability as possible for your child and with this in mind we are committed to providing fast, flexible and confidential financial assistance to assist you with managing your school fee commitments for 2020.

Our Finance Department staff have prepared a streamlined financial assistance process that includes a staged process of assistance. For example, we have put in place a simple application process for those who have been directly impacted, so that they might defer their fee payments for a month while they assess their finances. We also have capacity, subject to our internal assessment criteria, to further extend payment plans – this can be managed on a case by case basis.

Let me be absolutely clear: our position as a Catholic school, and as a Marist school, is that no child will be denied ongoing enrolment due to inability to pay.

Please contact the College Finance Team (accounts@assumption.vic.edu.au) should you need to discuss your individual situation and the measures I have mentioned above. We appreciate that this will feel uncomfortable for some, but urge you to make contact relatively quickly, so that we can support and reassure you and your child as soon as possible. The discussion will also assist with our financial modeling going forward.

Like you, we are attempting to manage this new reality as quickly and effectively as possible, without knowing what the future holds. We encourage families to access all the supports available to you, and seek to be part of this network of support for you. The Federal Government has provided some practical new advice for those who have been adversely affected by this crisis, which I have provided for you on the next page. It confirms who to contact for support to your businesses, as well as how to seek additional supports for your family.

If there is anything else that the College can be of assistance to you, please don't hesitate to contact us. Our office will be running with reduced staff during the holiday weeks, but there will still be someone on hand to assist you.

Kind regards,



Kate Fogarty
Principal

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**Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash
Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business
Senator for Western Australia**

24 March 2020

UPDATE

QUICK LINKS TO GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND HOUSEHOLDS IMPACTED BY COVID-19

The Government is acting to cushion the blow from the coronavirus for businesses and households to help them get through to the other side of the crisis as the world deals with the significant challenges posed by its spread.

Below I have set out the quick links to the measures available to small and medium businesses, sole traders and households under the \$189 billion economic support package announced by the Prime Minister:

Business.gov.au support line:
13 28 46

Small or medium business with reduced cash flow?
[Here's what we're doing to boost your cash flow.](#)

Is your business financially distressed?
[This is what we're doing to support you.](#)

Assisting the economic recovery
[Here's how we'll support you to grow.](#)

Employ an apprentice or trainee?
[This support is for you.](#)

Are you a sole trader that has lost business?
[This is what we're doing to support you and your business.](#)

Household finances hit by reduced work?
[Here's what we're doing to help support your family budget.](#)

[Payments to support households.](#)

For more information on Coronavirus and the Government's response, please visit:
www.treasury.gov.au/coronavirus or www.australia.gov.au

