

16 March 2020

RE: Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Information Letter 2

Dear members of our All Souls St Gabriels School Community,

As part of our commitment to the health and safety of our community, the Senior Leadership Team are continuing to monitor the coronavirus situation closely and following advice, guidance and directives from government agencies – especially the Queensland Department of Health. Independent Schools Queensland (ISQ), Education Queensland (EQ) and the Australian Boarding Schools Association (ABSA) are also supplying advice and guidance to schools.

Please be assured we will continue to act accordingly upon advice, guidance and directives from the Queensland Health Department and Federal Government Authorities associated with this situation.

At this stage, we all should continue to remain alert, but not alarmed.

The advice, guidance and directives received will be changing as the situation evolves. The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) is aiming to keep all members of our community informed of any major changes to our routine practices. Our first information letter (dated 11 March) outlined the precautions we are taking to limit the spread of any infection in our community. These precautions continue. This letter serves to update our School community on recent decisions made by the SLT following up-to-date advice, guidance and directions. We are following the governments advice to instigate 'proportionate measures' to control the spread of this virus.

School remains open

As per the advice from the National Cabinet (announced 1:30pm, Sunday 15 March):

At this stage, All Souls St Gabriels School will remain open for teaching, learning and residential activities.

The advice from the National Cabinet is that it is the best practice to not close schools at this stage because:

- Children out of a controlled environment can spread the virus and therefore infect the more vulnerable in families and the community;
- Children at home will mean disruption to the availability of health and essential workers because they are having to look after their children.

The National Cabinet will review the situation for schools on Friday 20 March. Any individual circumstances (confirmed exposure to school community member) means individual decisions will be made for individual schools. We have not received any directive of this nature at this stage.

Academic programs

Junior School – Classes continue to operate as normal for the remainder of the term.

Senior School – **All classes and assignment style assessment schedules remain in place (due in Week 8, 16 - 20 March plus a small number in Week 9, Monday 23 March).** It is not possible to move a bulk number of exams earlier in the term as students would not be adequately prepared. The SLT and Heads of Department have, however, looked at the current published Exam Block and have made some adjustments so that all assessment (assignment and exam) for the term will conclude at the end of Week 9 – 3.00pm Friday 27 March. **A new Exam Block Timetable for Week 9 will be published as soon as possible. Normal timetabled classes will be running in Week 10 in the Senior School.** Teachers will use this time to consolidate Term 1 learning and work. No new learning activity or assessment will take place in Week 10.

Academic Reporting and Parent / Teacher Interviews

Junior School	Oral Reporting sessions continue as planned.
Senior School (Years 7 - 10)	Progress Report continue as planned.
Senior School (Years 11 & 12)	Unit Report continue as planned dependent upon completion of all exams.

Parent/Teacher Interviews at the start of Term 2 will continue as planned.

Term 2

The SLT will continue to monitor the advice, guidance and directives from government departments and authorities regarding the start time for Term 2. **We have no official indication, at this time, of a late start to Term 2.**

Once we have a better idea of this situation, we will be able to better manage adjustments to educational programs.

We are very conscious of the fact that many of our families do not have reliable access to internet services. Any need for online/home learning will take this into account. Our Senior School staff and students use Google docs, Google classrooms and email as part of their current regular education programs. These would be the platforms we would use so staff, students and families are not needing to download and learn other programs that may be used by other educational institutions.

Events

To consider the health and well-being of our entire School community, we respectfully ask families who are unwell not to attend School events.

The following list includes events for a large gathering of people. Additional updates will be provided in due course.

Junior School Little Souls	Continues as scheduled.
Senior School Cross Country	Moved to Tuesday 24 March.
Lady Day events	Still taking place as scheduled on Wednesday 25 March.
Inter-House Girls	
Tennis Competition	Postponed to a date to be determined.



Junior School Cross Country	Still taking place as scheduled Wednesday 1 April.
Junior School Big Breakfast	Cancelled.
Junior School Family Day	Postponed to a date to be determined.
ANZAC Day Requiem Mass	Still taking place (assuming school is open).
ANZAC Day Dawn Service & Community March	To be determined by other authorities.
Annie (School Musical)	Still planning for this to take place on 29 & 30 April, at this stage.
Country Music Festival	To be determined by other authorities.
Street Parade	To be determined by other authorities.
NAPLAN	To be determined by other authorities.
Secondary & Junior Inter-School	
Cross Country events	Still taking place as planned, at this stage.
Townsville City Netball Carnival	To be determined by other authorities.

Other excursions, trips, workshops, visiting presenters will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis following the latest advice at the time.

Boarding

We continue to be able to maintain safe and caring environments for the young people in our care.

The SLT are also discussing plans for boarding students returning from range of different communities for the start of the term. We believe this will also be a part of advice and guidance from ISQ, ICPA and ABSA.

Staff and students returning from overseas during the school holidays

Staff and students requiring to self-quarantine for the mandatory period of time after overseas travel will not be able to use on-site accommodation for this period of containment.

General advice

Further advice and information about the coronavirus is available on the Queensland Health website: <http://conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthCondition/condition/14/217/838/novel-coronavirus>.

The following information (with links to additional information) was also received by the School this morning:

The Department of Education, Skills, and Employment has today launched an updated [COVID19 landing page](#). This page has been redesigned to make it easier for students, parents and education providers, as well as job seekers and employment service providers to find information about managing risk associated with COVID-19.

Existing Department of Education, Skills and Employment fact sheets and FAQs are still available on this page, which now contains new information for jobseekers and employment service providers.

For further health advice please visit the Department of Health [website](#).

*For further information on travel restrictions please visit the Department of Home Affairs [website](#).
Communication Team
Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment*

Please continue to take care and look after each other – especially elderly and family members at a higher risk of complications from this virus. We are a very caring community – this is our strength.

Jon Teichmann is the School COVID-19 Liaison Officer. If you have any questions regarding the information included in this letter, please contact Jon (07) 4788 2210 or via email jteichmann@allsouls.qld.edu.au

Regards



Darren Fleming
Headmaster