



From the Headmaster  
Dr D P Nockles

23 April 2020

Dear Parent

I am writing to you to outline the educational plan for the School as we begin Autumn Term 2020 and apologise for the lengthy nature of this letter. I trust the holiday period has allowed your family some respite from what was a very challenging end to last term for so many families in so many ways. My apologies for what might appear to be late notice, however, the School has necessarily been waiting on advice from the Health and Education Authorities before finalising our plans for Autumn Term.

I know parents are aware of the competing demands that Macarthur faces in planning the way ahead. There is a fine balancing act of taking the needs of families and, parents in particular, into account, balanced with the particular critical education needs of certain year groups, as well as the Work, Health and Safety needs of the School staff.

Your understanding as the School plans a way forward that accommodates these, at sometimes competing needs, is very much appreciated and I would like to thank the very many parents who have sent in emails of support for the School as we manage this unique and dynamic situation.

The impacts, advice and therefore the School's response to COVID-19 is without doubt difficult to predict. One thing I am certain of is that we need to continue to be agile to changes as well as having a steady and measured plan ahead. My Executive Staff have been working hard to achieve this outcome and again I appreciate your forbearance and understanding if the plans we have put into place need some minor adjusting along the way - either because of positive developments or because of a need to regress. We pray the latter will not be the case.

As you are no doubt aware the NSW Government is putting into place plans to have students return to school campuses in a staged way from Week 3 this coming term, that is Monday 11 May 2020. There are two important elements to understand about this approach:

1. the strong advice is that schools should manage initial attendance so that approximately 25% of students are on the campus on any given day, incrementally increasing as the term progresses; and,
2. a single mode of teaching and learning is to operate for the majority, if not all of Autumn Term. At Macarthur this will primarily be a continuation of the online teaching and learning approach currently in place. Face to face in class teaching will be rolled out to different year groups as the term progresses.

For the first two weeks of Autumn Term the arrangements will remain the same as was the case for the end of Summer Term. The Premier's advice remains the same for this period, that is, parents are encouraged to keep their child(ren) at home. However, it is important to note that Macarthur's campus will be open to all students who need supervision as of Monday 27 April 2020 and remain so for the duration of the term.

While another two weeks of predominantly at home learning seems a significant challenge, it is far better than the community was forecasting prior to Easter. At Macarthur we had planned for the worst case scenario of maintaining the current model until the end of Autumn Term. Thanks be to God that easing restrictions have allowed us to adapt those plans for possibly an earlier progressive return to campus for our students.

As I have indicated in previous correspondence, in order for the School to plan appropriate levels of supervision for the first few weeks, a survey will be sent out to all families on Thursday of each week seeking your attention by Midday Friday to assist the School in planning supervision levels for the following week. The link to the first of these surveys is <https://forms.gle/j2p5PXkNvd5QDnn69>. I would appreciate all families completing this survey by Midday Friday 24 April 2020. If you do not intend sending your children to School for supervision I would appreciate you completing the survey to that effect. If no reply is received by the weekly deadline (ie Midday each Friday) it will be assumed parents are keeping their child(ren) at home for that week.

For families with students in Transition, a separate letter and survey was distributed last week and I thank you for your responses to that - those plans remain unchanged until further notice. I trust the Information sheet which can be found here (<https://bit.ly/3cCXidw>) is helpful and clear. As the term progresses further information will be forthcoming as the restrictions on campus attendance is loosened. Once again, if you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Head of School.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Nockles', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

David Nockles