



From the Headmaster
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Dear Parent

It is clear that there is growing confidence that COVID-19 is being well contained across NSW in general notwithstanding a few outbreaks that we have already seen and will inevitably continue to experience from time to time.

The advice and confirmation that I have been expecting finally arrived last evening and so I am delighted to inform all families that face-to-face teaching and learning will recommence for all remaining students at Macarthur from Transition to Year 12 on Monday 25 May 2020, that being the commencement of Week 5.

Year 11 and 12, as well as Kindergarten and Year 1, have already commenced face-to-face lessons, operating for over a week now. It was planned that only Years 7, 6, 5 and 4 would recommence on Monday 25 May 2020. However, as stated above, the advice just received is such that I am bringing forward the return to face-to-face teaching and learning for all Macarthur students. This includes the resumption of usual lessons for Transition students as of this date.

It is important to note that while face-to-face lessons resume, the rest of the usual school routine we are all used to will not return until at least the commencement of Winter Term.

Co-Curricular, Sport, Excursions, School Trips and Parent Gatherings

All non essential activities; meetings and travel, including Chapels and Assemblies; concerts and recitals; weekly IPSSO and MISA sporting competitions, NASSA, AICES and CIS carnivals and gala days; all excursions and trips; and, all after school co-curricular activities; will not take place until further notice, and certainly not before Winter Term.

Face-to-face meetings with parents will be restricted to only the essential, and no group gatherings of parents or other community members will take place until further notice and certainly not before Winter Term. Could I ask parents to be particularly aware of social distancing measures at drop off and pick up times, particularly in the Junior School Pick-up and Drop-off area. Parents are reminded that they are not to enter the classroom areas of the School, although the Administration zones are open for business as usual. The current arrangements for staggered finish times and parking arrangements will remain in place for the rest of Autumn Term.

I am still expecting a degree of ongoing disruption to usual routines into Winter Term. There are several gatherings and events that the School usually hosts throughout Winter Term involving more than 100 people. At this stage it is difficult to see these events taking place unless social distancing measures changes significantly.

Health and Hygiene

I am pleased that the additional cleaning and hygiene protocols, as well as the school appropriate social distancing measures, that have been put in place are now routine and, while I am unable to give guarantees, I am confident that our staff are managing this risk well.

I continue to urge parents to be particularly mindful of the health of their children and ensure that they keep children at home displaying symptoms of even the smallest ailments. Any form of illness in the school at present amplifies the risk of managing the health and well being of students. Please do not send students to school if they are unwell in any way. Students who attend school and show symptoms of being unwell will be sent to the Clinic and parents will be called to collect them.

I am expecting to see a number of schools closed across the city and state for short periods due to COVID-19 being detected within their communities. Plans are in place to deal with such an occurrence if it were to affect Macarthur. While I earnestly pray that Macarthur is not impacted in this way it is important to acknowledge it as a risk and to plan accordingly.

Absences from School

As of Monday, 25 May 2020 the protocols surrounding absences will return to normal. Please inform the School in the usual way of any absences so that they can be appropriately recorded as per government requirements. Unexplained or absences not approved will be recorded as required by the School as of this date. If your family is in anyway affected by compromised health, then please inform the relevant Head of School so that the School can appropriately record the absence. In such instances, families may be required to provide medical documentation outlining the reasons for the absence for the records.

In closing I would like to once again thank parents for the very kind emails and phone calls to the School. It is clear that even though there have been significant disruptions to routine and general inconveniences, the actions of the School have been appreciated. Thank you for your forbearance shown over this period and in the months to come. As always, your kind words in the midst of COVID-19 have demonstrated what a wonderful and supportive parent body we have at the 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