

27 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

In our final day of regular classes for this term, our preparations continue for adopting our remote learning platform for next week. Our remote learning trial on Wednesday overall went very well and we are grateful for the support of students and parents in undertaking this new mode of learning.

I would also like to express my appreciation to a number of parents who have provided us with positive feedback about this initial trial. In undertaking anything new, there will undoubtedly be some challenges and improvements to be made, and we encourage students and parents to provide feedback about these. This will then assist us in refining our systems and procedures going forward.

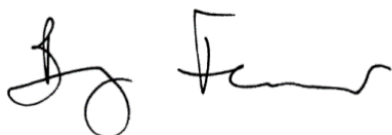
We are very conscious that we are all in new territory and we do not yet know what next term will hold. During next week, senior staff will be focused on planning for whatever circumstances might arise.

In this planning process, we will pay particular attention to the needs of our Year 12 students, given the importance of their final year. We are receiving regular updates from both SACE and the IB organisation as they consider possible changes to assessment and examination arrangements.

As we get our remote learning program under way, we are mindful of the need to strike a balance in provision of information, so we are providing the necessary details, whilst not deluging students and parents with messages. We encourage you to communicate with us in relation to any queries or difficulties.

I am looking forward to being back on deck next week and re-connecting with all our staff in the first instance. As I have expressed before, we wish all our families well in dealing with these unprecedented circumstances and hope that we will move through these challenging times as well as we can. Again, please feel free to contact me about any of these matters.

Yours sincerely



Bradley Fenner
Headmaster

Remote learning update:

We were pleased with the smooth running of our remote learning trial day on Wednesday 25th March 2020 and have gathered feedback from each faculty. This feedback will be used to inform our approach to remote learning going forward and a 'best practice' checklist has already been disseminated to the teaching faculty.

As we move into a week of remote learning (Week 10), it is important for teachers, students and parents to understand how we can maximise this opportunity at Prince Alfred College. It is also important to note that it is not possible to replicate a standard classroom model, but we can certainly make learning meaningful. We will embrace the opportunities offered by a move to remote learning but as with any new initiative, it will be those who adapt more quickly and effectively who will see the greatest benefit.

Philosophy of remote learning:

1. It is best to approach remote learning as neither better nor worse than our standard teaching model, only different.
2. If teachers try to deliver lessons as they would in a classroom setting, they will deliver a worse version of 'normal' teaching.
3. Remote learning is a significant challenge, but there are certain disciplines, or units within subjects, that lend themselves well to remote delivery.
4. For remote learning to be successful, the *set-up* is crucial. If boys are set up well for a task, they are able to work efficiently on their own. Boys can work 'task' for a long time if the teacher effort is focused on clarity of initial instruction.
5. In a typical class of 20 boys, each boy receives around 5% of the teacher's attention. In a remote learning world, boys will receive 0% of the teacher's attention for a significant amount of time, but close to 100% at other times. The quality of questions asked by both boys and teachers during this latter intense time is vital to the success of remote learning.
6. In a world of remote learning, boys are better able to prioritise their time. They can work for longer on topics/questions that need their attention and go quicker through work they have mastered already. In a remote learning world, boys *can* be more efficient workers.

Remote learning Week 10:

If your family circumstances require your son to attend school next week, we ask that you advise the respective Head of each sub-school.

- Secondary School – Dr. John Kinniburgh
- Preparatory School – Mr. John Stewart

Secondary School attendance procedures:

- If your son is attending the College campus, then he should sign in with Ms. Liddy in Student Services, which will be open from 8.00am. He will then be supervised in the Library and attend online lessons from there.

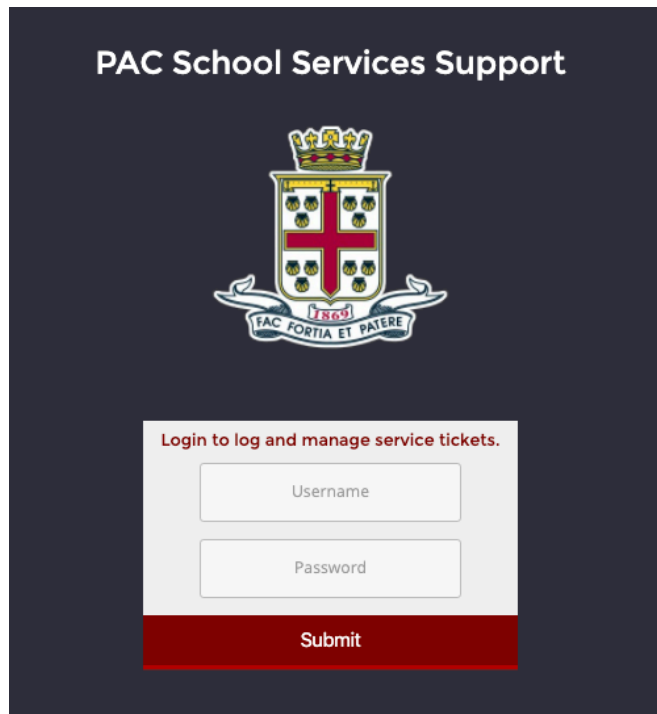
- College absence procedures will remain the same for remote learning. If your son is unwell or unable to attend his online lessons, then please contact Student Services on:
 - Text: 0447 100 196
 - Email: absentee@pac.edu.au
 - Phone: 08 8334 1264
- The class roll will be marked during the day as per your son's timetable on DayMap.
- The first lesson every day will be a tutor check-in from 8:50am, which your son must attend.
- The College will still be sending absence text messages if your son does not attend the tutor check-in at 8:50am and non-attendance in other lessons will be followed up as normal.
- Curriculum instructions for lessons have been sent by the Director of Teaching and Learning Mr. Benjamin Evans.

Preparatory School attendance procedures:

- If your son is attending the Prep School, then he should go to the library or the playground, which will be open from 8.15 am.
- OSHC service will be available to parents before and after school.
- Your son will be supervised in the Library and attend online lessons from there.
- Prep School absence procedures will remain the same for remote learning. If your son is unwell or unable to attend his online lessons, then please contact the Prep School Admin on:
 - Text: 0447 100 231
 - Email: prepoffice@pac.edu.au
 - Phone: 08 8334 1203
- The class roll will be marked each day on DayMap.
- The first lesson every day will be a morning meeting check-in from 9:00 am, which your son must attend.
- The College will still be sending absence text messages if your son does not attend the morning meeting 9:00 am and non-attendance be followed up as normal.
- Curriculum instructions for lessons have been sent by the Head of Preparatory School, Mr John Stewart.

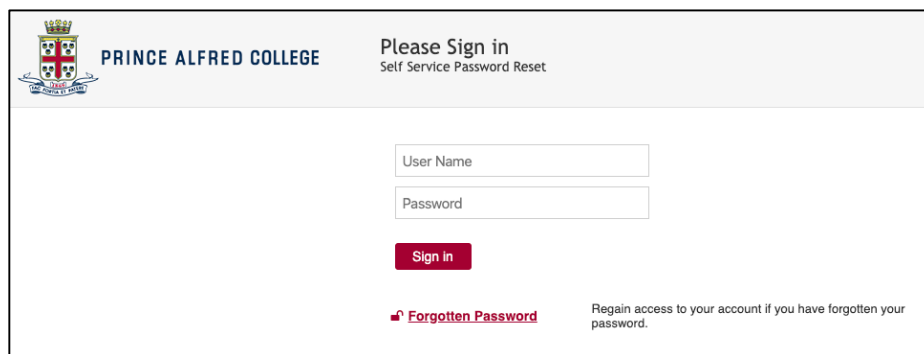
ICT Services Support

During remote learning, ICT Services support can be accessed via the PAC School Services Support Desk at <https://support.pac.edu.au>



Students will need to login using their student number as username, e.g. Username: 12345.

To reset or update a student password, the password portal is available at: <https://password.pac.edu.au/>



Note that this will allow you to login to create a new password even if your password has expired.

If your issue is not able to be resolved using either of these channels, please email the ICT Services team at ictservices@pac.edu.au

Support Tickets remain our preferred method of providing support as they allow the team to:

- Prioritise and triage the tickets in order,
- Manage who completes the work,
- Maintain a log of communication about the issue,
- Keep a record of whether the incident is resolved or not.
- It also will prevent issues being possibly missed if the recipient of a direct email is unavailable at that moment.

Wellbeing:

We understand that the current COVID-19 situation is unsettling and concerning for our students and families. In response to this, our College wellbeing team has produced an excellent resource for parents to support their son's emotional wellbeing during this uncertain time. Keeping children safe and healthy is our paramount concern, and this of course includes mental health.

- [Talking to your son about COVID-19](#)

Hugo Jordan and Brendan Tomlins are the Secondary School Captains of Wellbeing and they have produced an excellent resource for the students as well.

- [Top tips for boys' self-care](#)

College Chaplain Reverend Mark Dickens has also prepared a message for the community. Please click on the link below to view this through our Facebook page.

- <https://www.facebook.com/PrinceAlfredCollege/videos/352621828987566/>

College COVID-19 updates:

Any information provided by the College regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19) can be found on our main College website (<https://pac.edu.au/>)