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Bradley Fenner
Headmaster

1 April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I was delighted to return to work on Monday and see our remote learning program under way. I have visited teachers in both the Preparatory and Senior Schools and seen them in action teaching their classes remotely. I have been impressed with the level of engagement that was evident and the thought and care which had gone in to the preparation of the lessons and their mode of delivery.

I would like again to thank and congratulate our teachers, and those leading our academic programs, for the good work they have done in establishing and implementing remote learning processes.

I was also pleased to note that yesterday saw a 97% attendance rate across the entire school. Again, this indicates the way that our students are engaging with the remote learning program and I thank parents for your support in this.

COVID-19 case

On Friday, we learnt of the first COVID-19 case within our immediate community. Secondary School Music Teacher Lizzie Gregory, who had been in isolation since the end of the previous week, was diagnosed on Friday with COVID-19. Fortunately, Lizzie has mild symptoms and was in good spirits when I spoke with her on Friday afternoon. I passed on the best wishes of all our community for a speedy recovery.

As Lizzie had been in self-isolation since the previous Friday, following the return of her fiancé from England, medical authorities confirmed that she had not been infectious when she was last at school, so there was no risk for anyone here, staff or students. We continue to maintain all Department of Health guidelines and Government directives in relation to our handling of the Coronavirus outbreak.

Planning for second term

In line with Government directives, we hope to return to normal operations as early as possible in second term. However, we recognise the reality of the situation and are planning for a series of possible scenarios, including an extended period of remote learning and/or school closure. We will provide further details as soon as they come to hand about what is likely to happen in second term.

College Council

On Monday, PAC Council held a special meeting to address specifically our response to the Coronavirus outbreak. Council is very mindful of the challenges faced by many of our families and we are looking at appropriate measures to provide support going forward. We are also aware of the impact of the modified programs that we are currently operating and we will have more to say about that in due course.

Chair of Council, Richard Hockney, offers the following message to our families:

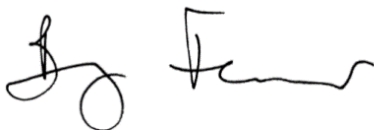
On behalf the Prince of College Council, I extend my sympathy and support to all members of the PAC community affected by the Coronavirus outbreak.

The Council has been kept well informed by the Headmaster and members of the College Executive and wish to express our appreciation to all members of the College staff, many of whom have taken on additional work to ensure the success of our remote learning program in the first instance.

The Council has been in regular contact with the College Executive in recent days and weeks and, indeed, met with the Headmaster and Director of Corporate Services yesterday evening by Zoom. We will be holding regular additional meetings in the coming months, dedicated to oversight of the College's response to the Coronavirus outbreak, to ensure timely decision-making in a rapidly changing environment. I wish to assure our community at this time that the decisions we make will always be focused on what is best for the students of our school.

We are very conscious that the impact of this outbreak will be felt for many months and even years ahead. We encourage members of the College community to communicate with the appropriate staff about any concerns they might have at this time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bradley Fenner', written in a cursive style.

Bradley Fenner
Headmaster

Health Centre Update:

The College shared some valuable Wellbeing Resources last week, and today I would like to share some other Health Resources that you may find useful.

It is essential to ensure that information about COVID-19 is obtained from reputable sources including the following:

- [Australian Government Department of Health website](#)
- [UNICEF](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)
- Australia's [Head to Health](#)

And while there is a plethora of news and data coming to us daily, it is just as important to be aware of information that is not factual. The [WHO Myth Busters](#) page is helpful to refute some of the common myths circulating about this virus.

There is an abundance of instructions in the media on how to keep ourselves safe, but I thought it might be useful to break some of this information down into simple Infection Control measures for our different student age groups.

Early Learning Centre:

- Encourage regular handwashing.
 - Make it fun and ensure hands are washed for 20 seconds. Singing two rounds of 'Happy Birthday', while handwashing, takes 20 seconds.
 - Some rhymes have been re-worded into handwashing songs. EG: Row, Row, Row your boat (wash, wash, wash your hands) or the ABC song
 - Or there are handwashing songs: [handwashing song](#) and one from the Wiggles: [the wiggles/handwashing](#)
 - Make it routine and ensure the older children and adults in the family are regularly handwashing as well as young children will copy those around them.
- Use puppets, dolls or teddies to demonstrate good health behaviours, e.g.: covering coughs and sneezes with their elbow and avoid touching their faces with their hands.
- The puppets, dolls or teddies can also help explain why everyone is being careful and that germs can make them sick.
- Make sure their toys are washed regularly – especially if they are demonstrating how to cough or sneeze!
- Talk about their friends and relatives who are also staying home as part of social distancing and explain that their friends are not going out anywhere either.

Preparatory School:

- Continue to focus on good health behaviours, such as covering coughs and sneezes with their elbow and washing their hands.
- Remind them to avoid touching their face, especially their mouth, nose and eyes.
- They will be able to understand the basic concepts of disease prevention and control. Talk to them about how germs can spread. Demonstrate how far droplets from a sneeze or cough can travel by placing coloured water in a spray bottle and spraying it onto the path outside or onto a piece of paper.
- Encourage 20 seconds of good handwashing. Put finger paint or a small amount of glitter glue onto their hands and see if they can wash it off by just rinsing their hands quickly under water. Then have them wash their hands properly, for 20 seconds with soap and water, and compare the results.
- Social distancing will be difficult at this age. Reinforce that they are 'heroes' for keeping themselves, their family and the other people in the community safe. Children are able to understand the importance of staying safe, even when quite young.
- Clean surfaces regularly, especially common areas.
- Avoid sharing utensils, cups, drink bottles and towels.

Secondary School:

- Continue to reinforce the regular handwashing and cough/sneeze etiquette.
- The WHO have produced a video and poster on how to correctly clean hands using hand sanitiser: [WHO Hand Gel](#) and how to correctly handwash: [WHO Hand wash](#) (posters attached)
- Teenagers touch their faces frequently. Remind them to keep their hands away from their mouth, nose and eyes unless their hands are totally clean.
- It is important to maintain their own personal hygiene, clean their teeth, dispose of their own tissues as soon as they have been used and get plenty of fresh air and sleep.
- Clean surfaces regularly, especially their phones and keyboards.
- Avoid sharing food, utensils, drink bottles, cups and towels.
- Be careful of your language: talk about people "acquiring" or "contracting" COVID-19 instead of saying they "transmit", "infected" or "spread" the virus to avoid implying intentional action.
- Encourage positive stories of community members, health workers and scientists who are working to reduce the outbreak and promoting good infection control measures.

Our children will have many questions on this outbreak and how they can stay safe and well. If you are not sure about the answer to a question, then use it as an opportunity to search for the answer together. The nurses in the College Health Centre are also happy to help answer any questions you, or they, may have or to help point you to the best online resources. Our contact details are: 08 8334 1205 or healthcentre@pac.edu.au.

Anna Thomson RN
School Nurse and Health Centre Nurse Manager

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/>)