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Bradley Fenner
Headmaster

8 April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Coronavirus outbreak response

1. Remote learning last week

I would firstly like to thank everyone – staff, students and parents - for the overall success of last week's remote learning exercise. We were pleased to see student attendance rates of 97-98% each day of the week.

As I have indicated previously, we are very conscious that we are in new territory and learning from our experiences. I was both affirmed and encouraged as I went around the school during the week to see the way our staff were conducting their classes, indicating the level of preparation and collaboration with colleagues that they had done to prepare for this.

We are currently surveying students, parents and staff to gather further feedback about last week's remote learning program, to guide us in planning for next term.

2. Second term

Whilst we are still awaiting advice from the National Cabinet and State Education Department about arrangements for next term, it is likely that we will again be running by remote learning from the beginning of next term. In Victoria, where schools commence Term 2 next week, it has been announced that parents are being strongly encouraged to keep their children at home, undertaking remote learning. However, schools will remain open for students who need to attend, because their parents are involved in essential services or for other reasons.

This is of course how we were operating last week and we anticipate operating the same from the start of next term. We will advise everyone as soon as this is resolved, hopefully within the next few days. As we normally do in second term, we will start with a staff-only day on Monday, April 27, followed by commencement of lessons the following day, Tuesday, April 28.

At this point, we believe it is prudent to plan for operating by remote learning for the duration of second term. However, we hope to resume regular classes at some point during the course of next term, and our planning will include preparation to resume classes as soon as we are able to do so.

3. Year 12

The advice yesterday from the Federal Education Minister has confirmed that all Year 12 students will complete their program of study this year and will gain results and an ATAR to facilitate university entrance or whatever pathway they choose to take. There may need to be some modification, particularly in relation to examinations, to determine the final result.

We are being kept informed by SACE and the IB organisation about their response and any modifications they might have to make to assessment programs to determine the final results. We will advise students and parents as soon as we are aware of any changes to assessment processes.

We are also very conscious that our Year 12 students are missing out currently on many of the things they have looked forward to in their final year. At this point, major events such as the Red and White, Intercol sporting fixtures, major performances and other occasions have simply been put on hold for the time being. We sincerely hope that we will resume our regular program at such a time that we will be able to conduct these events.

In the meantime, we are exploring ways to communicate with students and staff, to maintain the benefits gained through regular school gatherings such as Assemblies, Chapel services and year level meetings. We have also been speaking with the School Captains and Prefects about opportunities for maintaining social connections during this time of social restriction.

4. Boarding House

Our Boarding House has remained open specifically to cater for our international students during the holidays and beyond. I would like to acknowledge Director of Boarding Zac Savage and his team of Boarding House staff for their willingness to participate in keeping the Boarding House open during this time. As well as maintaining supervision, the staff are also organising appropriate activities for the boys during the holiday period.

5. Wambana

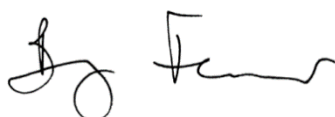
Given a range of challenges associated with running our Year 9 residential program at Wambana in the current circumstances, we have postponed the scheduled second term program to third term. At this point, we intend running both the second and third term programs during third term for a slightly reduced duration, whilst ensuring that all the major components of the program are still included. We are providing further information directly to the families affected by this.

6. Financial matters

As I have indicated previously, we are very conscious of the emerging financial challenges for many of our families during the Coronavirus outbreak. The PAC Council is meeting this week, when it will consider these matters and will communicate with our parents about this in due course.

In conclusion, I wish everyone well for the Easter break ahead. Whilst there are restrictions on what we can do and where we can go, I hope that you will be able to enjoy some special time with those who mean most to you.

Yours sincerely



Bradley Fenner
Headmaster

Zoom and Security

A number of potential security issues relating to the Zoom application have been in the news recently. The ICT Services team has been monitoring these closely and has already taken steps to mitigate these where possible. Many of these issues have already been addressed by Zoom and resolved through application updates. We recommend that staff and students continue to keep their operation system and applications updated as these become available.

We have confidence in Zoom's approach to resolving these and maintain that Zoom is an appropriate application for the College to be using.

More information from the Zoom CEO on their response to these issues is available here: <https://blog.zoom.us/wordpress/2020/04/01/a-message-to-our-users/>

Wambana Program (Term 2 and 3)

Due to uncertainty around the coronavirus, it will not be possible for the Term 2 program to proceed as planned. For the Term 2 and 3 programs, the following will occur:

- The next 5-week Wambana program has been re-scheduled to take place in Term 3 as a 4-week program.
- The Term 3 program will be reduced from 5-weeks to 4-weeks and will take place immediately after the postponed Term 2 program is completed early in Term 3.

This means that two Wambana programs (reduced to 4-weeks) will take place in Term 3.

Tips on how to stay safe online

With the move to remote learning, there have been increasing concerns about how to ensure students remain safe online. The following information provided by the eSafety Commissioner is very useful for parents and guardians.

- [Tips on how to stay safe online during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Wellbeing

Our College Wellbeing Captains have again produced an excellent resource to support student emotional wellbeing during this uncertain time.

- [Remote Learning Tips](#)

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/>)