

24 April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you to provide a further update on the arrangements relating to our response to the Coronavirus outbreak. As we have noted previously, during this period circumstances have changed rapidly, and this has been the case in the last 24 hours.

1. Return to school

I think that most parents would be aware of yesterday's announcement by the Chief Public Health Officer, Prof Nicola Spurrier, regarding school attendance. In the attached letter to parents and carers, Prof Spurrier advises that, based on the current expert medical advice there is no need for school closures and encourages families to send their children to school.

On this basis, I am pleased to advise that we will resume regular classes at Prince Alfred College at all levels from the beginning of the second week of second term, **Monday May 4**. We are delighted that we will be able to resume classes at the time, as we have continually stated that this is our preferred mode of operation. Whilst we have done all we can to provide the best remote learning experience, there are some limitations on what we can do in that way. Moreover, we are all aware of the many benefits of operating within the regular school environment.

We will operate by remote learning for the first week of term, in accordance with our original plans, as we need to prepare for the resumption of regular classes. Moreover, we need to ensure that we have in place the various safety measures recommended by the AHPPC, including those mentioned by Prof Spurrier:

- Avoiding large gatherings.
- Maintaining social distancing appropriate to the school environment.
- Upgraded cleaning processes.
- Ensuing appropriate hygiene measures, including regular use of hand sanitisers.
- Regular temperature checks with non-contact thermometers.

We have learnt through our remote learning program trial and implementation that it is not possible to conduct regular classes, whilst simultaneously running a comprehensive remote learning program. For students who do not attend school, we will therefore be able to provide only the regular support that we would to any absent students.

2. Financial arrangements

I have referred previously to correspondence that would be forthcoming from the Chair of Council regarding the financial arrangements that we are putting in place as a result of the changed circumstances with the coronavirus response. Please find attached a letter from Chair of Council Richard Hockney and me, outlining these arrangements. We hope that the assistance offered will be helpful for our families.

3. Boarding

As you are aware, we have kept our Boarding House open, including during the holidays, to support our international students. We will now be pleased to welcome back all other boarders at whatever time suits the families involved, in preparation for the resumption of classes.

We note that boarders from interstate will need to go into an isolation period, and will be pleased to assist in making arrangements for this. Parents should liaise with Director of Boarding, Zac Savage, on all these matters.

4. Year 12 students

We are very conscious of the needs of the Year 12 students, both academically and otherwise. We will work with this group to ensure that their needs are met and that, as restrictions are relaxed, their Year 12 experience provides the special events and rites of passage that are important to this final year.

5. Co-curricular activities

I think we have all missed involvement in co-curricular activities, since limitations were first placed on these programs. We recognise the importance of engaging in these recreational activities, be it sport, music, other performing arts or outdoor activities. We will provide further details about the resumption of practices and rehearsals when we are able to do so.

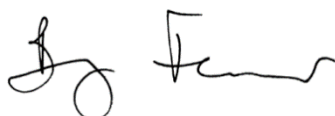
Competition and performances will be delayed for the time being until these restrictions are lifted.

Given the changes that we have seen so far, we do need to be ready for further changes in policies, directives or processes. We will do our best to communicate in a timely fashion and we thank everyone for accommodating these changing circumstances.

I would again like to acknowledge the challenges faced by many of our families at this time. I also wish to thank our staff, across all areas of the College, for the way in which they have responded to the challenges that we have faced as a school.

In conclusion, I want to say how much we are looking forward to resuming our regular classes and other aspects of school life. Whilst there will be restrictions on what we are able to do for some time, I know how much we are all looking forward to seeing everyone again and resuming the active community life of Prince Alfred College.

Yours sincerely

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

Bradley Fenner
Headmaster

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Dear parents and carers

I hope that you have had the chance to enjoy time with your children during the school holiday period.

The COVID-19 pandemic is and will continue to be, a very worrying time for many parents and carers as we see the devastation caused by this virus around the world. Importantly, schools are a central part of a child's life. They provide stability, a sense of achievement and a rich learning environment for every child. This is especially important at a time when many children and young people are feeling stressed about COVID-19 and worried about what the future may hold.

We have been lucky in South Australia to now have very low numbers of positive cases in our state. This is the result of closing both the national and state borders, having effective quarantine processes, having many people in our community coming forward for testing and having every single one of you reducing your travel, practicing social distancing and good hygiene. Please keep it up, we have achieved a lot, but there is still a long way to go before we can say it is over. Thank you for all that you and your family are doing.

My job is to ensure that the South Australian community stays as healthy and disease free as possible. Together with the other Chief Health Officers in other States and Territories, I have weighed up the pros and cons of children attending school.

With the very low levels of COVID-19 in South Australia along with the wider public health strategies in South Australia, I strongly believe there is no need for school closures in this state, at this time. Even when we had higher rates of disease in South Australia, only 2% of cases were school students, all of whom had mild illness and have fully recovered. I encourage families to feel comfortable and safe about sending their children to school.

However, if your child has a chronic medical condition or a compromised immune system, you may wish to consult your GP or paediatrician when deciding if your child should return to school.

I have been working closely with the Department for Education, Catholic Education and the Association of Independent Schools to make schools as safe as possible for everyone. This includes increased cleaning, making sure there is soap, sanitiser and tissues for students and staff, having protocols in place to practice social distancing, not having large gatherings of the school community and teaching children, however young, to avoid passing on germs.

We have a clear protocol for a minimum 24-hour closure in the event of a case of COVID-19 in a school, to allow us to contact anyone at risk and to undertake a deep clean. These protocols have been used six times without fail.

If your child/children are well, I encourage you to send them back to school or preschool this term. If they have symptoms of a cold or have a fever, keep them at home until they are better plus get them tested for COVID-19.

I wish you and your child/children all the very best in health and education for term 2.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N Spurrer', written in a cursive style.

PROFESSOR NICOLA SPURRIER
Chief Public Health Officer
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22/04/2020



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Dear Parents and Carers

The College Council understand the difficulties that some within our community are facing during these challenging times.

As the Headmaster has communicated, we are continually monitoring the latest communications and directions from the various authorities to ensure that we are fully compliant in a changing environment and providing a safe and supportive environment for students and staff. Our staff have worked tirelessly over the past two months to ensure that our remote learning program offers the best opportunities for our students to continue their PAC education.

Significant resources have been directed to providing the best possible education during the remote learning period, and now in planning for a resumption of regular classes in the second week of second term, as advised separately.

The College has reviewed, and will continue to review, its operations and we have had to make some difficult decisions with regard to our current staffing levels where the change in delivery of our program allows. All areas of expenditure are currently under review and our Capital Program has been put on hold except for areas where expenditure had already been committed. We will continue to review this as we work through this period.

The College Council is aware of the impact the State, national and international shutdown has had on many businesses and recognise that many in our community are significantly impacted, now and for the foreseeable future. We also recognise that some activities normally associated with a Princes education cannot be offered at this time. As a result of this, the College Council has decided to discount the Second Instalment of fees by the amount of the Consolidated Charge. We intend that this will provide some immediate relief for all families at this time.

For domestic boarding students who were away from the Boarding House for the latter part of Term 1 and are now due to return for the start of face to face learning in Week 2 of Term 2, the Council has approved a 25% discount on the Boarding House Fee payable for the Second Instalment. We hope that this provides relief to those families who may have been impacted during this time and reflects the reduction to your sons' boarding experience for this period.

Should you wish to discuss your individual circumstances, we encourage you to contact the College directly, as we wish to support all our community through this challenging period.

Yours sincerely

Richard Hockney
Chair of Council

Bradley Fenner
Headmaster