



## **Emmanuel Anglican College Community Update: 3 April 2020**

### **Thank you for your support - this is a challenging time for us all**

Thank you to all of our staff, students and families for your patience, generosity, adaptability and good will as we work together to maintain the learning opportunities of the students in the time of a global pandemic.

We are so grateful for the wonderful spirit of support, trust and community that students, staff and families are generously sharing with each other during these unprecedented times. I am sure the students take enormous comfort from the fact that the school and home are working together so productively and collaboratively.

The College recognises the enormous challenge that the Covid19 situation is placing on families. We appreciate very much the difficulties some families are having negotiating the technology, maintaining student engagement and ensuring students complete work requirements while trying to manage their own work, family and financial commitments.

Please continue to look after one another and reach out if you need support (learning, wellbeing or financial). I am sure we will emerge an even stronger, more resilient and vibrant EAC community because of our wonderful efforts now and in the coming weeks.

### **Home Based Learning to continue in Term Two**

Pending a change of advice from Government and Health authorities, the College will continue with home based learning during Term Two for students in Kindergarten through to Year 12. There will also be supervision on site for students of essential service personnel and for those families for which there is no other viable option.

The Early Learning Centre will continue to operate during the school term break but will not be running a Vacation Care program.

### **Staff Professional Planning Days**

In preparation for the continuation of homebased learning in Term Two, all K-12 teaching staff will be involved in curriculum planning and preparation meetings and activities on the following days:

Wednesday 8 April 2020

Thursday 9 April 2020

Monday 27 April 2020

Staff will not post online any new learning materials or respond to emails during this time. Student who have assessment tasks due on these planning dates are still required to submit those tasks. Students may continue with previously set online learning activities.

Site supervision (including After College Hours Care) will be available on each of the Professional Planning Days.

### **Enhancing Home Based Learning**

The College has received an overwhelmingly positive response from families regarding the staff's effort to provide relevant, engaging and meaningful work via the new mode. We have also had lots of insightful feedback from students, families and teachers about ways to improve the experience and manage this



enormous challenge of learning while at home. We acknowledge that many families and students are finding the amount of work required to be completed too much and will plan a number of strategies to ensure a more suitable and even flow of work to students. Other initiatives include:

- All secondary parents will be invited to be 'guardians' of the google classroom and will receive one email at the end of each week with a weekly snapshot of student involvement in learning.
- Zoom conferencing will be expanded to include all secondary classes. The 'Zoom' lessons for Years 7-10 will take the form of regular 'Q and A' sessions.
- Select primary year levels will receive a new pack of 'hard copy' materials and activities to support the online component and these will be delivered to homes in the first week of the new term.
- Students with additional learning needs will be involved in Zoom conferencing with the Learning Support Team.

### **Financial Support for Families**

Once again, I state that we want to do all we can to keep our community together. College Council has developed a range of strategies to support families and reduce the financial burden during these uncertain times. All families will receive some direct support in the form of an account credit and a fee discount as well as having access to reduced monthly payment plans, fee payment holidays and bursary support. In simple terms the College will provide support to every family that is in need to help ensure they remain part of the community and their children do not have to leave the College. Additional information will be distributed next week about accessing financial support.

### **School Holidays**

These school holidays will obviously be different in so many ways. After three weeks of intense screen time I hope that all students spend lots of time playing with their siblings, sharing family time, playing board games, riding their bike, swimming and getting away from the technology. Except for Year 12 students, I strongly advise against asking students to do additional work or study during the break. Certainly teachers will not be available during this time as they will be having a well-deserved break.

### **Blessings of peace, good health and hope this Easter Season**

I conclude with a quote from Archdeacon Matthew Jones, Rector of the Anglican Parish of Ballina.

"Our Christian faith gives us hope. We trust an amazing God who can do amazing things, so we have hope for the future, even when the present looks bleak and perhaps even hopeless. St Paul wrote these words: 'And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.' (Romans 5:3-5).

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