

6 March 2020

Dear Parents

I wish to provide an update on COVID-19. It is evident that we are currently living in unsettling times. Without wishing to cause further alarm, it is impossible to know the rate of spread of COVID-19 virus or the impact it may have on the community. At the time of writing, there is news that the first school in Australia, Epping Boys High School in Sydney, has been closed and it is likely that there will be more as the days unfold.

Against this background, I want to assure you that the School is doing all that it can to stay informed and to be prepared for any eventuality. The health and wellbeing of our students and staff is our highest priority.

At this stage, there is no intention to close the School. Of course, this situation would change if there were to be a confirmed report of COVID-19 within our School community or if we were directed to close by the Government.

As we approach the school holidays at Easter there will be students, their families and staff who may be planning to travel overseas at this time. In this rapidly changing environment, please be aware that Government advice on overseas travel may change by the time the school holidays arrive. The Australian Government's *Do Not Travel* list on *Smart Traveller* will have the latest.

It is possible that both staff and students may be required to be quarantined at home even if they are returning from a country not currently listed under *Do Not Travel*.

The list currently includes China and Iran to "do not travel", South Korea "to reconsider your need to travel" and Japan, Italy and Mongolia to "exercise a high degree of caution".

As a precaution and to ensure the ongoing safety of all our students and staff, we would ask that you **let the School know if you are planning a family holiday overseas in the coming weeks**. Please contact our School nurse, Mrs Jessica Nikolsky on jnk@was.qld.edu.au.

In the meantime, we will remain vigilant; and, of course, our thoughts and prayers are with those people who have already been affected by this virus.

Please ensure that you contact the School to advise us of any overseas travel plans and if you have any other concerns that we may be able to help you with.

With kind regards



Andrew Wheaton
PRINCIPAL