

18 May 2020

Dear Parents

Re: Return to School for Years 2 to Year 10 on Monday 25 May 2020

I am pleased to advise that the Queensland Government has given the approval for students in Year 2 to 10 to return to school on Monday 25 May 2020. This will see all year levels welcomed back to Whitsunday for face-to-face learning.

The School understands that some parents may choose to keep their child/ren at home due to concerns with COVID-19 and this is respected. However, we would ask that you please contact your respective Head of sub-School to advise them of this intention. Students who are unable to attend School will be able to access learning materials through our established online platforms. *WAS@Home* and the video conferencing feature will no longer be available for lessons from Monday 25 May. Further information on the academic support for students unable to attend School can be discussed with the Head of Junior School, Mr Mick Martin, or the Head of Curriculum, Mrs Natalie Sunner.

Parents of Boarding Students in Years 7 to 10

Mr Brad Allen, Head of Boarding, will be in contact with our Boarding families to provide further information on your child/ren's return and to address how the School is meeting the specific guidelines from Queensland Health.

Attending School Campus

During this time, we respectfully request that parents do not attend campus, other than for drop-offs or pick-ups, or urgent student safety and wellbeing matters. As per advice from the Chief Health Officer, we also ask that parents do not gather in areas around School drop-off and pick-up zones, outside classrooms or at the School gates. Should parents attend campus it is important that physical distancing is adhered to.

Stopping the Spread of COVID-19

Whilst we are excited to welcome all year levels back to School, it is important that the School continues to follow the advice of the Queensland Government and the Chief Health Officer.

Therefore, please encourage and support your children to:

- Clean their hands regularly with soap and water or alcohol-based sanitiser.
- Cover their nose and mouth with a tissue or bent elbow when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid touching their face, nose and mouth, and do not shake hands.

As an additional precaution, parents of students displaying any signs of illness will be asked to collect them immediately from the School and if your child is unwell, please do not send them to School.



Please note that we are still unable to resume large group activities such as assemblies, sports competitions and arts events. This approach will be reviewed upon receiving further advice from the Queensland Government and Chief Health Officer.

I wish to acknowledge and thank our teachers who have been instrumental in designing and delivering an outstanding *WAS@Home* program that was able to ensure the continuity of learning for our students. Thank you also to the many parents who have expressed their gratitude for our *WAS@Home* program and for our devoted staff who continued to provide an engaging on-campus program.

We look forward to seeing our students across all year levels return on Monday 25 May and thank you for your continued support during these extraordinary times.

Best wishes

Andrew Wheaton
Principal