



St Clair High School

Dear Parents/Carers and friends of St Clair High School,

Welcome to the end of what has been a very interesting term for us all. We started the year with a very clear focus, being '2020 classroom ready'. We had a new 5 period day structure, introduced Homeroom and U Matter Mentoring, and all set off to be learners, initiators and leaders. Little did we know that this focus would end up with the expectation that we were '2020 classroom ready' AT HOME.

Who would have thought that a short 3 weeks ago, terms like self-isolating, social distancing and remote learning would become everyday terms for us all, and part of our everyday routine.

As Principal, the importance of being able to provide some form of continued learning, routine and structure, for our school community has been my primary focus. We are trying to make sense of this new normal in a way that we are able to provide some stability for our students and families in what is otherwise an uncertain time.

As you would know, there is no script for this, this is uncharted water for everyone. I am truly overwhelmed at the efforts of our staff, teaching and administration, for the way they have transformed learning in the classroom to learning in the home, completely redesigning what learning looks like, no complaining – just solutions and amazingly clever plans.

These past few weeks have given us the opportunity to identify and work through the challenges involved in creating a fully functional on line SCHS learning community.

Term 2 will commence with a Staff Development Day. Students resume their remote learning on Tuesday 28 April.

Whilst, at this point, schools will remain open, the advice is very clear, schools are to provide access to education for students of working parents. All staff and students who have the capacity to work/learn from home *'are to be working and learning from home to minimise the risk of exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace and help limit the spread'*. (Scott Morrison)

Term 2 will see a more routine off-site school day. The training wheels are off. We have practised this now for several weeks and we feel confident our school community is on the right path. Students attending their online learning classes will be monitored very carefully as we are still bound to ensure our students are attending school, engaging in their learning and that they are safe. We are required to keep track of this.

Our school day will still remain as closely aligned to our 'normal' school day to continue the routines and structures that our school community already knows.

I extend our thoughts to those of our community who have been impacted by the effects of COVID-19, and offer any ongoing support the SCHS learning community might be able to provide to ease the burden.

We will continue to maintain communication and provide any necessary information via our Website, School Bytes, SMS Messaging and Facebook/Skoolbag channels.

Term 2 will see us welcome Mr Ricky Land as our newly appointed Head Teacher Welfare. Ricky is a PDHPE teacher and comes with a wealth of experience in both curriculum and welfare. I would like to thank Ms Hollie Brennan for the wonderful work she has done relieving in this position.

Thank you for your overwhelming support as we navigate these uncharted waters. Students are our focus, and our primary concern is always the safety and wellbeing of all members of our St Clair High School community.

On a final note, the one thing we all know is that the Easter Bunny has no travel restrictions, or the need to self-isolate, and can still maintain social distancing whilst delivering our Easter treats.

Enjoy your holidays, take a break from the screens. I hope the Easter Bunny is generous.

Kind regards

Julie Tegart

Principal

9 April 2020