



To Parents, Guardians and Carers

Well this is certainly a year to date that has thrown us a curve ball or two. In the light of recent developments and in line with the Department of Health and our [Education Minister's announcement](#), I would encourage, for the safety of students and staff, that if you haven't already done so, please keep your children home. We understand that there are exceptions to this, for example those working in essential services where other options aren't available.

To support you, our online links and Learning from Home options will be made available to you from Monday 30th April.

Formal shut down of Education doesn't occur until Week 10 (April 6th) and then we are still required to provide supervision for a small handful of students. Next Term we anticipate that the way we deliver Education will change shape.

I am proposing we keep our community safe by doing our very best to minimise risk and start operating from home from next week. The large majority (85%) have already kept their students home but until now we have been working hard to build the online and digital support needed for online learning to be viable. In regards to our Senior School students, in particular our Year 12 students, we are to take direction from SCSA – currently what has been put in place for our Senior School students is to continue until such times as SCSA issues a new direction.

Parent Access to our College

We are endeavouring to prioritise the health and safety of our community, meet Department of Education and Health Department guidelines to the very best of our ability. I'd like to thank you in advance for your support around this.

Next week we have made the decision, in order to protect our community, that parents will not have direct access to the front office. If parents need to enter the premises from 8.15 to 2.45 Monday to Friday for the next two weeks they can ring from the front door and we will provide access as required or release students into your care. Any essential meetings we will schedule via teleconference.

Gate Access for Students Restricted

The only two gates open for the next two weeks will be those near the bike racks and the gates near front Admin.

Canteen Closed

Our canteen will not be open next week so if you need to send students to school please ensure they have a packed lunch and a water bottle so they don't have to use our water fountains.

These are certainly challenging times and ones that will certainly define us in how we choose to respond to them. Our children, our families and our community are afraid right now, understandably so, as our world changes around us at an alarming rate. The challenge for us is to ensure that we take charge of our physical safety, and also our mental health. We need to find ways to look after our mental set and support each other. To that end I have also sent out **two support documents** to assist you over upcoming months. We will keep adding links to the resource links available via our [website](#) to assist you in this space.

1. [Top Parenting Tips - COVID-19](#)
2. [Health and Wellbeing - Useful Resources for Parents & Students](#)

For me, whether schools are open or closed, I will try and get a letter out to you all every week offering any support of which I am made aware. I will keep you updated around anything that may be available to assist you and your children in these difficult times.

Whilst these times are challenging, I can't help but feel that they can also provide many of us with an incredible opportunity – a chance to change pace, to self-reflect; to get some of those things done that you had always previously put off as you never had time for them; to get those old vinyls off the shelf and introduce your children to the likes of Pink Floyd or Led Zeppelin; to start that veggie garden or favourite family recipe book; to spend more time with your families and to make this time a joyful time. I think we also need to be grateful that we live in one of the most isolated parts of the planet, in a beautiful place, with a caring community.

Currently on Site:-

Our College has been working hard on ensuring that our on-site community stay safe, using social distancing wherever possible. Our cleaners and staff have worked overtime to ensure our high touch surfaces are clean and regularly sanitised. Health and wellbeing is important and I need to thank staff – teaching and non-teaching, for their dedication and professionalism, ensuring we adapt to meet the safety requirements, provide pastoral care support whilst still maintaining progress around our learning goals. With reduced numbers we have had to adapt accordingly and I know everyone is doing their very best.

Virtual Learning Commencing Next Week 30th March

We are working hard to ensure our students are supported and can engage in remote learning opportunities. This is going to look different in different homes and there isn't a one size fits all model. We are developing different options and you will need to determine what works best for you and your child. On Monday our website will provide the relevant links. Please be aware that this will be an evolving space as we add to this to provide you with support over upcoming weeks. Also [CONNECT](#) has been going slow at times and I know the Department is working on this. I have no doubt that we will have some hurdles but will work hard to overcome these as they arise.

Your child's teachers will have given them direction as to which learning platform will work best for them. However, you may select a combination from the choices available or just work on one option.

LOWER SCHOOL 7-10

- [CONNECT](#) – available in all Learning Areas.
- A Different Way Through – a more personalised way of connecting students to their learning to explore interests with links across Learning Areas.
- Please refer to our [website](#) page – Online Learning for further opportunities to explore online learning for your child. This site also provides the link for the Department of Education WA 'Learning from Home' Website.

SENIOR SCHOOL

- SSTP – Training Pathways team will advise their students in moving forward in this area.
- Certificate Courses - these are either being completed online or via booklet. Students have been briefed individually on what they need to do.
- General Pathway – via [CONNECT](#)
- ATAR Pathway – via [CONNECT](#) and individual class arrangements that have already been put in place to ensure as much continuity as possible.
- Please refer to our Website page – Learning from Home for further opportunities to explore online learning for your child. This site also provides the link for the Department of Education WA '[Learning at Home](#)' Website. As this letter goes to air – work for Year 11 and 12 students from this site is still being prepared.

BIG PICTURE ACADEMY

- Each Advisory has set up their mechanism with our Big Picture students.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

- Some generic resources and links will be available on our website to assist parents to manage this.
- Avenues of support will be made available to assist parents wherever possible.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- Links to resources on our website will also be shared and added to over upcoming weeks.

We are currently working out the best way to disseminate and provide access to this information to you in the most user friendly way.

For the small number of you that have no computer we have been able to assist our Senior School students. Families may be interested in contacting [Mandurah Muskateers](#) who provide discounted prices for any families that may be seeking a computer at this time.

I need to acknowledge the exceptional work of our staff in pulling all of this together, as well as running existing classes and managing workload and stress. We are all doing our best in trying times. I am fortunate to work with such exemplary, caring and giving people.

I encourage everyone to take the Social Distancing and isolation measures seriously. Only by working together can we see a return to normality sooner rather than later. It is great to see our community pull together in this way. Please try to stay positive. This will pass. Meantime let's make the most of the opportunities that this creates as there is always a silver lining in even the gloomiest of clouds.

Warmest Regards

Bronwyn White

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bronwyn White".

Principal