

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Novel Coronavirus – COVID-19 Update**

Consistent with the Prime Minister's address yesterday (Sunday), the State Government has advised today that schools and pre-schools in South Australia will remain open until National Health Advice changes. At the moment, school holiday dates in South Australia have not changed (commencing Good Friday 10/4 and returning Monday 27/4). The Prime Minister has indicated, however, that parents are able to keep their children home if they wish. This is a change to the position the Government previously promoted. It is essential to stress to those parents who choose to keep their children home the importance of staying home and not mixing with other families or going to public places for non-essential reasons.

Although Emmaus continues to provide a safe and stimulating learning environment for your children to attend with all the benefits 'face to face' education provides, I understand some families are carefully considering the words of our Prime Minister yesterday regarding physical attendance at school. Consistent with the Government's position Emmaus, at this time, will remain open for students to physically attend as usual.

Although Emmaus teachers are well advanced in preparation for rigorous remote learning programs to be electronically delivered if this becomes required in the event of full school closures, Emmaus is primarily still focusing teacher time and energy into our 'face to face' delivery approach. Although it is not possible for our teaching staff to focus on both a full service 'face to face' teaching approach and comprehensive remote teaching approach simultaneous, Emmaus teaching staff are prepared to support learning continuity of students whose parents are choosing for them to remain home at this time. Although this will not be as comprehensive as when we subsequently migrate to a full remote delivery methodology if this is required, it will allow students the information and support they require to continue learning while at home in the interim. The focus will also be on what we regard as 'Essential Learning' which will be primarily Numeracy and Literacy, and in time Science and HASS.

As the specific arrangements for the above-mentioned support of student learning at home at this interim stage varies significantly based on the year level of the child, each Head of School will follow up with a more detailed letter over the next day outlining exactly how this will operate at each year level of the College. Year 12, however, requires a special approach so Mrs Gear will additionally write specifically to all Year 12 parents outlining our approach for Year 12 students.

I would like to reassure all Emmaus families that we are closely monitoring all developments in this matter and are committed to the highest level of educational outcomes for your children irrespective if this is in the traditional 'face to face' style or any future electronic based remote learning format in the event of school closures. Emmaus will continue to take full responsibility for the education, assessment, and reporting on your children's educational needs regardless of the pathway ahead. Additionally, our efforts are also focused on how we can pastorally care for your children and support their continuing faith development at this time of uncertainty.



**Emmaus**  
Christian College

After you have received more specific information from your respective Head of School, I encourage you to follow up directly with them if you have any questions.

Thanks for your continuing support of the College.

Blessings

Andrew Linke  
Principal