



St Bede's College

17 April 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

I write to you in the hope that you and the family are well.

Each family reality is different to another; thus, we are all adjusting to social isolation in our own ways. Beyond the many challenges of what we are experiencing, some people are finding positive outcomes. I have heard back from a number of our students that they are spending more time conversing with their immediate and extended families and find that both interesting and assuring.

This week marked the beginning of our Offsite/Online learning program. Every student in every school is adjusting to what this means. No two schools are identical in the way in which they have implemented remote education. It is reasonable to say that we are all evolving our thinking about the ways in which our students can be best served through online learning.

To this end, St Bede's will be **surveying our students, parents and staff** to gain feedback on the process to date. This survey will be sent out on **Friday 24 April** and due back on the following Tuesday 28 April. The College will reflect on that feedback. Any changes will consider the necessary balance between online Child Safety, practicality and effective pedagogy.

From this Monday, we will have our College Leaders speaking to all students through a pre-recorded link. This link will also be sent to all families. Our Captains will continue to send out a whole College link every Day 6.

I encourage you to view that link as it has some very practical suggestions from our seniors to every student, no matter what their year level. It contains some reflective assessments of the challenges around online learning.

Your son is continuing to receive suggestions around prayer and meditation. Encouraging your son to engage in this would be helpful, as the early response from students who have taken up this opportunity has been very positive.

There is some information given below from our Deputy Principal of Teaching and Learning (Ms Haggett) and our Deputy Principal of Students (Mr Jones). Please read this carefully as they give some recent updates and important information.

I encourage you to stay in close contact with the College. Both Ms Haggett and Mr Jones are available to answer any questions around the Offsite/Online learning program and student wellbeing. Your subject teacher, homeroom or tutor group teacher will also willingly answer any queries you may have.

St Bede's College has an amazing community. Over the past week I have heard of many wonderful instances where members of our community have reached out to others to offer a kind word or practical assistance.

Words accompanied by action are always appreciated.

I wish you well in the coming weeks.

Per Vias Rectas

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Finn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Mr John Finn
PRINCIPAL
Dip T | B Ed | B Sc | M Ed Studies | M Ed Leadership

ATTACHMENT on Next Page



Please read the information below:

From the Deputy Principal of Teaching and Learning - Ms Maria Haggett

- As previously communicated, students will be assessed during this online period, however it will be more flexible. This type of assessment is formative; that is, teachers will collect evidence of student achievement as part of the learning process.
- In the senior levels, teachers will collect evidence which will contribute to satisfactory attainment of outcomes in the VCE. The situation for Year 12 VCE is quite fluid and we are responding to information from the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority as we receive it. We will keep all members of the community informed.
- In lieu of the cancellation of Term 2 Parent/Teacher interviews, teachers will complete interim feedback reports during **Week 5 of Term 2**. These will be specifically designed for Offsite/Online learning and will be available via the Parent Access Module (PAM) on SIMON.
- A reminder that should your son need support with his learning program, **please do not hesitate to contact the relevant subject teacher**.
- If your son receives a descriptive report, or is on a heavily modified program he will receive additional support from a Learning Support Officer. Students and parents will be contacted if this is the case.
- Parents and students will be surveyed at the end of Week 2 (24 April). We will continue to monitor feedback and make necessary adjustments to assist in a smooth transition to Offsite/Online **learning that meets the needs of all members of our community**.
- The Year 10 Work Experience program which was scheduled for Weeks 2-5 of Term 3 will be postponed. We will inform you of alternative arrangements when they are known.
- Please be advised the Mrs Angie Greaves, Careers Coordinator, will be available for careers counselling. Students have been advised to email Mrs Greaves to make an online appointment.

From the Deputy Principal of Students – Mr Mark Jones

- The College requires all students to register their attendance at the start of the day and to check out at the end of the day. A student failing to register their attendance at the start of the day will result in a text message being sent home to their parent or guardian. All students have been well informed about this process.
- We are pleased with the very positive responses from so many of our students. Should your son need support regarding matters other than his learning program, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant coordinator.
- The College is providing the opportunity for supervised study at school for the children of 'essential service' workers who are unable to work from home, and for vulnerable students. Should you wish to apply for your son to be included in supervised study please email Mr Mark Jones - mj@stbedes.catholic.edu.au.
- We are mindful of how challenging the current situation is likely to be on our VCE students. We are encouraging them to stay in contact with teachers. Messages of support as well as tips and resources will be sent out to them each week.