



Fairholme College

TOOWOOMBA

COVID-19 UPDATE

8 April 2020

Dear Parent/s

My apologies for an interruption in the holidays. I would like to be writing with definitive news about school operations for Term 2 2020 but am unable to do so, currently. The Education Council which comprises Federal and State Ministers for Education met yesterday to discuss Year 12 arrangements and Term 2 school operations. No decisions have been announced via the Queensland Government in relation to Queensland schools' second term operations; it is anticipated that this information will be shared no later than Tuesday 14 April.

For our Year 12 girls, it was pleasing to note that the Education Council meeting conferred that all students will be able to achieve a Senior Secondary Certificate of Education this year, and that certificate will facilitate access to university, further education and employment. Whilst modification to the assessment regime has already occurred in Queensland, any further announcements regarding specific arrangements will be advised through our state government via the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA).

Though there is a plethora of Coronavirus information, there is flux around how social and physical distancing measures, and travel restrictions within and across borders will affect education provisions into the future.

At this point I can share information about the following areas:

Accounts

We are delaying our billing process until we have a greater understanding of government requirements in relation to the nature of school operations, and how this will therefore affect tuition fee schedules. There will be no boarding fee charges until boarding resumes.

However, we do also understand that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of our families have been directly impacted, financially. In the interim, can I encourage you to contact Mark Freeman our Business Manager via email mark.freeman@fairholme.qld.edu.au or phone 07 4688 4601 should you wish to discuss your situation with him.

Boarding

Should the Queensland Government follow the decisions made by the Victorian Government then we can expect the term to begin with on-line learning and on campus provisions made for the children of essential workers. Whilst we wish differently, we can assume that given the strict guidelines around social and physical distancing that boarding operations are unlikely to commence in Term 2.

Reports – Middle/Senior School

Reports have been issued within Fairholme Connect and you will have received an accompanying emailed letter regarding Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews. These interviews can be booked on-line and are likely to become phone meetings to occur within the week beginning 20 April. Please be in contact with our IT Department if you have any difficulty with the logging in process. They are available on weekdays from 8am to 4pm via helpdesk@fairholme.qld.edu.au or T 07 4688 4652 to assist.

Wellbeing

We understand that wellbeing matters, and, at such a time, it matters more than ever before. Social connection, albeit with proper social distancing; exercise; good diet; sleep and healthy thinking underpin wellbeing. Right now, there is anxiety for many, as we collectively wonder what lies ahead. There are some great resources available to our Middle/Senior students on-line via the Wellbeing tab situated within the Student Portal of my Fairholme. For Junior School students and all families, we encourage you to access the links listed via the Wellbeing section of the COVID-19 Information page on our College website.

Finally

There is much for the College to consider operationally now, and into the future, and I will continue to communicate further with you as more information becomes available. As we approach Easter, it is timely to consider the importance of faith, community and hope. I pray that as individuals and in community we are well supported in this time of difficulty and uncertainty – may we continue to look towards those who need our care, most.

Fairholme is not Fairholme without our students and thus we look forward to their return, however that might look. We are all in this together.

Kind regards



Dr Linda Evans | Principal