



# Fairholme College

## TOOWOOMBA

COVID-19 UPDATE

17 March 2020

Dear Members of the Fairholme Community

We continue to follow the advice of the Government and Public Health offices in relation to managing health and wellbeing. The most recent advice received late yesterday afternoon stated that 'the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee has met to consider the issue of school closures in relation to the community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). The Committee's advice is that pre-emptive closures are not likely to be proportionate or effective as a public health intervention to prevent community transmission of COVID-19 at this time.'

We are also very mindful of our responsibilities within the community health space, balancing the needs of all our families, including boarding families who must make decisions about travel with greater urgency than is typical. Thus, we have decided to close a little earlier than scheduled – as of end of the day on Friday 27 March. By this date, staff will have further consolidated their delivery for our online learning processes and other learning packages. Additionally, our Year 12 students will have completed their assessment. Whilst this allows two travel days for Boarders on Thursday and Friday, do contact the Boarding Office should there be any complexities around arrangements. I do need to iterate that this situation is fluid, information continues to change rapidly, and an earlier closure could occur, should that be deemed by the authorities to be the best decision.

I have been in conversation with the Toowoomba Grammar Headmaster as we are conscious of the high number of brothers and sisters that form our school populations. We are aware that they have made the decision to close their school from the end of the school day on Wednesday 25 March but are able to keep their boarding facilities operational until the end of the school day on Friday 27 March. As is the case with the Toowoomba Grammar School, the delivery of curriculum will continue through our on-line learning platform. In addition, where needed, email and hard copy materials will assist in delivery of learning.

I do wish to assure you that **there are no confirmed cases of Coronavirus in our community**, nor has any staff member or student been tested for same – despite contrary discussions by some students and their families. We are very fortunate to have a 24-hour Health Centre in operation, along with a school doctor who is working closely with us on a daily basis and further to this, we are in regular contact with our local Public Health facility. There is also a strong culture of hand washing practices, we have postponed or put a halt on larger scale events, and we have significantly reduced visitor traffic to the school. Unfortunately, none of us have the ability to predict the unravelling of Coronavirus and we continue to be advised by and follow the advice of those with the greatest knowledge.

We will ensure that you are kept informed and up to date with any decisions made, or information that becomes available from the authorities to assist our understanding and responses. For this reason, we have a dedicated page on the College website – please follow the link:

[https://www.fairholme.qld.edu.au/module/latestNews/view/388/covid-19-information/news?fbclid=IwAR36gSRvnUzddd5b\\_gO-4AnSyGbQueCU7I\\_s-vFMbIZWvOwaWp3Npsv9Sml](https://www.fairholme.qld.edu.au/module/latestNews/view/388/covid-19-information/news?fbclid=IwAR36gSRvnUzddd5b_gO-4AnSyGbQueCU7I_s-vFMbIZWvOwaWp3Npsv9Sml)

I thank you again, for your understanding and support at a time when we need, more than ever, to work closely together as a community.

Kind Regards,

*Linda Evans*

Dr Linda Evans | Principal