



Fairholme College

TOOWOOMBA

COVID-19 UPDATE

23 March 2020

Dear Families

Just an update from Fairholme – to all, whether your daughter is on campus or at home – we are thinking of you, cognisant that the presence of Coronavirus (COVID – 19) in the community magnifies other difficulties in our lives and that everyone is facing hardship, some extreme. May we continue to lean in for support and be prayerful throughout this time.

Whilst there will be school closures in other states from tomorrow, we remain operational on campus until this Friday 27 March. *Learning from Holme* has commenced for some, and will continue until Thursday 2 April. A number of students are engaged in this learning approach already, with those of you who are in a position to do so, and seeking to do so, keeping your children at home. We have noted general reductions in class sizes across all classes and sub schools as well as in boarding numbers, throughout the weekend. For boarding families we trust that we are able to respond quickly to your requests to bring your daughter home. Distance brings its own challenges.

Teachers continue to refine their provision of *Learning from Holme* for those working in places other than Fairholme. This is new practice for us all, and we too are learning how best to deliver in different ways.

Personal hygiene remains our most important focus - hand washing and social/physical distancing. We reflect upon, refine, and strengthen our practices on a daily basis.

As predictions for the time length of closure of our communities increases, we also look to the future, at the means by which we maintain *Learning from Holme*; hybrid models of delivery; approaches to maintain connection in our community; and wellbeing strategies for students, families, and staff. There are significant implications for the College with no immediate or easy answers and there are, and will be changes required of us all because Fairholme, like all schools, will need to continually work on best practice, as the circumstances require.

It is a time for consolidation, for faith, and for ensuring that we work together; not in isolation, albeit this collaboration will occur under different and typically 'virtual' configurations. As the landscape changes, we will endeavour to keep you up to date quickly.

Take care of yourselves and also of one another. The smallest of thoughtful gesture might carry the greatest of impact – kindness matters more than ever.

Thank you for your on-going support.

Kind regards

Linda Evans

Linda Evans | Principal