



Fairholme College

TOOWOOMBA

COVID-19 UPDATE
Learning from Holme

27 March 2020

Dear Middle and Senior School Parent/s

On Monday we officially move to *Learning from Holme*. Your daughters will have been sent or will receive clear instructions from their teachers this afternoon, in relation to their learning, for the final week of this term. Further, attached to this email are our *Learning from Holme* guidelines and expectations. *A small number of students whose parents work in essential services will join us for supervision of *Learning from Holme* – on campus, next week.

Let us acknowledge that within our Fairholme community, some of us are more confident in this on-line/ learning from home space than others. For example: we have families who have completed years of distance education with their children; we have parents who are teachers in our midst; we have those whose work commitments take them out of the family home, or are occurring simultaneously and thus their children are learning more independently, there are boarder families with problematic internet access; and we have families who are working through life issues that take precedence over everything, and those issues are magnified because of the situation in which we are living.

For some families, their circumstances will allow for, and benefit from a clear pattern of daily learning – for others this simply isn't feasible for a diversity of reasons. What remains important to us, however, is connection – providing opportunities for learning and support because the two concepts are inextricably interlinked and sometimes, in some moments, the support will be more important than anything else.

We will begin each day with a check in at 8.20am with Holmegroup teachers via the method agreed upon by the Holmegroup – eg. my fairholme social stream or chat; Zoom; Microsoft Teams or email. Whilst the period of direct engagement in learning from home will vary for all of the reasons listed above, we will need to know each day whether or not your daughter will be learning with us. Could we ask that if she is unwell and will be absent that day, that by preference you use the Fairholme app to register her absence – if that's not possible, through an email?

Whilst next week's timetable might look easy to implement now – it may play out differently in reality and that is OK, because everyone is experiencing life, uniquely. Our children are nervous and anxious and so are we, and that may play out in a confined home situation differently from anything we have seen before. For many of our children, the isolation from friends and classmates is a new experience and one that may come with sadness and frustration. The world as we know it and they know it has changed; they too are trying to make sense of things. As families we need to all lean in more, love more, and be patient more.

It is the time to read, play cards, get out on your property, do chores, watch movies, cook, and simply to be together – this is our most powerful tool at time when life simply doesn't make sense in

the way it did a few weeks ago. I am hopeful we will all find moments for which to be grateful, moments when we don't have to focus on Coronavirus and can enjoy being together with family.

We are learning a lot right now about so much, too much it would seem, but let us not deny the power of that learning to influence the way we live now and into the future: better, differently and with great perspective. *Learning from Holme* does provide a great platform for continuation of the curriculum but time together or doing 'stuff' together has great value too, probably more than it ever has before. Go gently and in community.

Kind Regards,

Linda Evans

Dr Linda Evans | Principal