



Fairholme College

TOOWOOMBA

COVID-19 UPDATE

14 April 2020

Dear Families

I trust that the holidays have allowed both an opportunity to slow down as well as positive family time, despite travel and social restrictions. You would be aware of the decisions made by the Premier of Queensland and Minister for Education yesterday regarding the arrangements for schooling from the start of Term 2. In essence, from 20 April 2020, all school students in Queensland will be moving to a home-based learning model for the first five weeks of Term 2 – up until 22 May. During this period, it is requested that all students who are able to learn from home should do so; this expectation extends from kindergarten through to Year 12. The same exceptions as were operational in the last week of Term 1 remain applicable: the College will provide supervision for the children of essential workers, or those deemed vulnerable when they are not able to be supervised at home, and when no other arrangements can be made. Towards the end of this document is a link to a booking form to be completed only by those parents who are essential workers; seeking supervision of their daughter (or son in Kindy) during school hours.

It is important to note that students who do attend school will be participating in the same online delivery as those who are learning at home. There will be supervisory provision via teaching staff. Parents of Year 12s are aware that the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority have already modified assessment requirements for this year's graduates. Similarly, across other year levels, teachers are modifying assessment as applicable. We cannot and do not expect at home teaching, learning and assessment practices to mirror traditional at-school practices.

In relation to boarding operations, Independent Schools Queensland contacted the Queensland Chief Health Officer late last week through the Director General of Education and the Chief Health Officer's view was that boarding should not re-open at this stage. Furthermore, the Department of Education has also advised that 'state-operated residential boarding facilities remain closed during this period.' Regrettably, given these considerations as well as the complexities of intrastate and interstate travel restrictions and associated self-isolation measures, along with the mandated physical and social distancing requirements, we will not be opening boarding for the first five weeks of Term 2. We will continue to review possibilities around commencement of both traditional boarding and tuition provisions based on Government and Health Department advice, as it is provided.

As indicated in my letter of Friday 4 April we have not issued a fee statement yet. Tuition Fees will be adjusted given the change in delivery mode - that is: learning from home. Boarding Fees will not be charged until boarding is able to be resumed. We hope to have details for the Term 2 invoice finalised and sent in the usual way by the end of the week. For those who are able to pay their invoice on time, this is greatly appreciated, for those who are experiencing financial difficulties, please be in touch with the College's Business Manager - Mr Mark Freeman via email: mark.freeman@fairholme.qld.edu.au or during business hours via phone: 07 4688 4601.

Thank you for your support of this changed delivery mode of teaching and learning. I have been so impressed by the commitment of our teaching staff to revise their methodology with such professionalism and within such a short time frame. Our students have responded positively too, and it is a credit to you and to them that such effective learning happened in our final week of term.

As stated, in the directive from the Queensland Premier and Minister for Education, Fairholme College will offer classroom supervision of students from Tuesday 21 April to Friday 22 May, for those parents working in essential services, or those students deemed vulnerable. To assist our staffing arrangements, **we would ask you to click this link only if your daughter (or son in Kindy) will require supervision:** <https://www.fairholme.qld.edu.au/community/events/student-attendance-covid-19.html> and to complete the attached form. This information will be required by midday Thursday 16 April to confirm your daughter's supervisory requirement. In the first instance, we are collating information from 21 April until 1 May. Following this, the College will be in contact regarding the supervisory needs up to and including 22 May. Regular school hours will be in operation and students will be required to wear school uniform. Junior, Middle and Senior School students will be required to bring their resources and laptop (Middle/Senior) to school each day.

Above all else, we wish that the circumstances for Term 2 were different, that it were business as usual, but that is not our circumstance, nor is it the circumstance anywhere in the world. First and foremost, we seek to keep our community and your communities as safe as possible. We continue to seek to support those in greatest need and to remember our collective responsibility to do so. Do continue to keep connected, positive and well: such is our prayer.

Every blessing

Linda Evans

Dr Linda Evans | Principal