



Alkira
Secondary College

Personalised learning for all. Respect for the individual learner.

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Dear Alkira community

It has been a very challenging week for our community as we develop processes and practices to respond to the emerging issues of the Covid -19 Coronavirus.

I appreciate that these are uncertain times and there is some anxiety and concern for our families.

The College is doing what we can to support a calm and orderly continuation of learning in the school but necessarily, we must consider developing a response to:

- School closure, if there is a confirmed case of corona virus
- Increased staff and student absences
- Increased expectations around hygiene and cleaning practices
- Social distancing implementation

We must also prepare for the possibility that at some time in the future, general school closures may occur.

As our school is in a Public / Private partnership, the cleaning and maintenance of the school is managed by an external company. Cushman and Wakefield looks after Alkira and have responded positively to our needs by increasing their cleaning schedules and they have employed extra staff to ensure areas are sanitised and supplies are maintained.

In order to promote social distancing in the school we are looking at limiting the number of students in specific areas and at specific times. House and whole school assemblies and our Cross County Colour Run have been cancelled. The library is now only open at lunchtime for silent reading. We may open a room for students who wish to use their devices or play board games once or twice a week. We are encouraging students to use external doors and avoid walking through the buildings and congregating near their lockers.

Depending on future numbers, we may stagger start and finish times if necessary.

I fully understand and appreciate that parents are choosing to keep their children at home during this time. All I ask is that you notify the College and provide consent for the absence on the day and if you are planning long term absence for your child, please keep us informed.

All of our teachers have been working hard to developing their learning programs well in advance. All lessons and resources are being posted up on Compass. If your child is absent they will still have access to a relevant learning program and resources and will be expected to complete the set work.

Students were advised early in the week to begin to take their text and work books home and only bring in what is necessary for the day. This way if they are forced to remain home due to illness or anxiety of risk of infection or if the school is suddenly closed, they will have access to the resources necessary to continue learning.

A reminder if students or parents are seeking to come into the school to collect any belongings from their lockers this can only be done before 8.40am or between 3.15 and 4.00pm. Ideally parents should have their child come in with them, but if you do not then please bring with you your child's locker details - Locker Number, Lock Combination and Building Location.

If classes become very small due to student absences, we may collapse and combine them to make the most of the resources we have. Collapsing and combining some classes will also ensure that our students have the best available teacher supporting them if their own teacher is absent.

LEARNING FROM HOME TRIAL

In the event that the school does close, teachers will work from home and continue to use Compass to post lesson plans, activities, learning tasks and resources. Learning will be monitored and updated on a regular basis.

Next week we are conducting a *Learning from home* trial to ensure that any issues or problems with *Learning from home* are identified and can be resolved if a school closure is enacted.

This will mean that we ask students from a specific year level to work from home for one day only next week. Students will be required to attend school as normal for the other days of the week.

The proposed schedule for the offsite leaning trial will be:

Tuesday March 24th Year 10

Wednesday March 25th Year 11

Thursday March 26th Year 9

Of course if there are any issues with learning from home, students will be permitted to come to school and they will be supervised. (They will still participate in the trial)

During this trial the students will follow their normal timetable and interact with their teachers online.

Rolls will be marked as normal.

If you are available during this time I encourage you to monitor your child's online learning experience and provide some feedback to the school and highlight any issues that might arise.

All parents and students will receive a *Learning from home* information guide to support your participation in the trial and for use if students are absent for a long term or in the event that the school is closed.

I thank you all again for your continued support during this time.

John Shaw

Principal