

# Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update Letter #2 Harrisdale Secondary - 18 March 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

We continue to act on the advice of the [WA Department of Health](#) to take the necessary precautions for students and staff.

## **School closures**

If there was to be a confirmed COVID-19 case at Carey, the decision to close the college would be on the advice of the WA Health Department's Chief Health Officer. The Chief Health Officer will, if there has been a positive COVID-19 test result, close the school temporarily while assessment and tracing of exposure is conducted. A thorough school clean will then be carried out to make the school safe for the return of students and staff.

In this situation, all Carey families will be immediately contacted by the College and provided with the relevant information.

## **What the School is currently doing to minimise the risk of infection**

Considering the recent government COVID-19 announcement, banning large group gatherings and emphasising the need for social distancing, we have now made the difficult decision to postpone or cancel several additional events planned for Term 1 and Term 2.

Some immediate postponements or cancellations include:

- Parent/Teacher interviews Weeks 8&9 (cancelled - please contact teachers via Direct Message)
- All Year camps in Week 10 (postponed - likely cancelled)
- Year 8, 9, and 10 Day Programs in W10 (will be amended, postponed or cancelled)
- The Year 12 Rottneest Retreat (postponed - likely cancelled)
- Oliver! (Musical Production) (postponed until 2021)
- All Assemblies (including Easter Assembly) (amended or cancelled)
- All SAS and JSAS interschool sports (cancelled)
- The Colour Run (postponed)
- The Mini Market day (postponed)
- Snow Camp (cancelled)
- The GATE information night (cancelled - further information will be provided)

The College is working to minimise our costs associated with the cancellation of events and camps. Where programs have been cancelled, a full refund will be provided. However, we would appreciate your patience as this is often a difficult process and will take a number of weeks to achieve. A range of other activities may be cancelled and notification sent to parents/guardians by the respective person in charge.

In addition to the cancellation of events and activities, some additional precautions that the School is undertaking include:

- Students, parents and staff are being reminded of our special hygiene requirements, the symptoms of the COVID-19 virus, and in the case of a suspected case of COVID-19, the requirements for self-isolation and management
- Providing hand sanitiser (as available) at key high traffic areas of the school (in addition to regular replenishment of hand wash in student bathrooms)
- Increased daily cleaning regime of classrooms, benches, tables and doors throughout the day
- The cancellation of most professional development programs
- We are requesting that all parents ensure their contact details are up-to-date in Consent2Go and Seqta
- Students are requested to minimise contact with bus drivers when using school and Buswest services
- Planning for the continuity of learning programs for students in the event of a potential School closure

We acknowledge that for some families, especially families with at-risk members at home, these measures may not be enough. Where this is the case, the College respects the right of parents to choose not to send their children to school at this time, in these circumstances please contact [absentees@carey.wa.edu.au](mailto:absentees@carey.wa.edu.au).

**Students with COVID-19 symptoms, if not tested, must be kept at home.**

### **Continuation of Learning (from Letter #1)**

#### **Secondary School**

With the support of parents, it is our intention to provide students with structured online learning through our existing SEQTA interface. All Secondary students have a login and can access weekly programs that typically refer to 'Key Understandings' with web links, PDF's or page numbers to assist students to develop and master that content. Teachers will further develop this content for those weeks impacted in the event of a shut down. In addition to our SEQTA program, teachers will set manageable tasks online in our existing 'Education Perfect' and 'Mathspace' programs and in some instances, teachers will continue the use of 'Google Classroom' to manage workflow, marking and feedback. **We are well prepared to provide continuity of learning with these existing platforms and have no plans to introduce new platforms or systems at this time.**

In the event of a shutdown, teachers will direct the flow of work and communication with their classes. Many of our staff teach more than 100 students a day. Teachers will not be able to answer every individual email or Direct Message. However, we do encourage students to contact teachers if they are confused about their task and cannot find the solutions within the instructions/information provided. We suggest that the students follow their timetable, this will give them structure and provide a balance of subject learning.

#### **Year 11 and 12 Students**

Teachers, whilst able to do so, will prioritise the flow of work and feedback to senior students. In doing so, teachers will use the software mentioned above and amend teaching programs so that students can work productively on tasks suited to the online environment available to them. In the absence of traditional direct instruction in the classroom, students should expect to spend more time on reading, writing and research-based tasks, all of which can be done very productively from home. Please encourage students to contact teachers if they are confused about their task and cannot find the solutions within the instructions/information provided. In the event of a shutdown, traditional in-class assessments will be modified so that they can be completed in the home environment or postponed until classes resume. Students studying a Certificate qualification will continue with knowledge and application-based learning as prescribed by the RTO under the direction of their teacher through SEQTA. All practical application and skill development aspects of the qualification will be covered when classes resume.

**Our goal over this period of time will be continuity, engagement and building resilience. Do not be anxious about the gaps that may occur in your child's learning. Staff will address these gaps when traditional classes recommence.**

**Things to do now:**

- Does your child/ren have access to the required textbooks and online programs?
- Does the family have a home supervision plan and reliable internet access?
- Are your immunisations and medications up to date, including a traditional flu shot?
- Have you logged into SEQTA recently? Please check your login this week (links below) and ensure you are familiar with the interface.
  - [Student Portal](#)
  - [Parent Portal](#)

At all times throughout this journey, the College will prioritise the health of our staff and our students. Please demonstrate your support by adhering to all [Department of Health](#) directives at this time.

If you are new to this country or if you lack family support, please contact Carey Baptist Church at [info@careychurch.asn.au](mailto:info@careychurch.asn.au) or for pastoral support from the College, please contact Dr Carolyn Montgomery or Mr Nick Harris at [coronahelp@carey.wa.edu.au](mailto:coronahelp@carey.wa.edu.au)

Yours sincerely

**Brenden Gifford**

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