

9 August 2021

Dear parents and caregivers

It was a very strange feeling to be on gate duty this morning welcoming back students whilst advising parents that they were not permitted onto school grounds. Hopefully we will continue to see a drop in active cases and easing of restrictions in the coming weeks.

In the 24 hours since yesterday's announcement we have received a number of important updates regarding the implications for school communities.

### **Restrictions on having parents/carers and visitors on school site**

Due to the limitations placed on parents, carers and other visitors being on school site, unfortunately those valuable conversations with teachers at drop off and pick up have been placed on hold at the moment. I would therefore encourage you to continue to communicate with the teachers via email, SeeSaw or phone.

Meetings with staff are still permitted if required, however they will be held in one of the meeting rooms at the main office rather than across the college.

### **Students unable to return to face-to-face learning**

Students will be learning in a face-to-face mode from Monday, and remote learning will not be continuing. If your child is under a quarantine directive, or is medically vulnerable and unable to return to school, please contact your sector Head of School for further information in regards to continuation of learning. If you intend to keep your child home voluntarily, please refer to the [learning@home](#) resources provided by the Department of Education.

### **Drop off and pick up procedures**

Unfortunately, the requirements regarding restricting adult access to the grounds means that we again need to implement specific drop off and pick up arrangements. Based on feedback from 2020 we have slightly modified the arrangements used throughout last year.

#### **Drop-Off**

- Primary drop offs will continue with all students entering via the main pedestrian access gate on Abbott Street.
- Secondary drop offs will continue to be able to occur through any gate.

#### **Pick-Up**

- Primary students will be walked down for collection from the Abbott Street gate.
- P – 6 OSHC & students walking home with older siblings will wait in the covered area until the bell.
- All students walking home via Abbott St will be directed to exit via the pedestrian gate adjacent to the vehicle gate on Abbott St.
- The main pedestrian access gate on Abbott Street will continue to be for families collecting their child.
- **Year 7 – Year 12 students** will continue to exit via the multiple gates on the secondary campus whilst continuing to follow the appropriate social distancing protocols.

### Restrictions on school activities

The Department of Education has also advised that the following activities are not currently permitted:

- assemblies and other large group activities including instrumental music groups, choirs, and performances
- extra curricula sporting activities
- interschool sport and
- camps
- excursions/incursions

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel a range of these activities across P – 12. Given the value these opportunities bring to the learning of our students we will endeavour to re-schedule as many of these as possible for later in the year.

### On-site hygiene protocols

We will continue to implement a number of site-specific initiatives, including;

- the wearing of masks for all adults and students age 12 or over and restricting parents and visitors on site
- continuing to explicitly teach correct handwashing techniques and have clear routines for all students to health and hygiene i.e frequent handwashing, not sharing water bottles, cough and sneeze etiquette, etc);
- continuing additional all-day cleaning of high use areas (toilets, handles, bubblers, etc)
- continuing to use larger locations, spaces or classrooms and outdoor learning spaces where available;
- improve fresh air circulation in classrooms (keeping doors and windows open as much as possible).
- having any child showing signs of any illness being immediately collected from the school.

Parents and caregivers can also access this information, which includes Queensland Health's Six Steps to Successful Handwashing available at [www.health.qld.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/444314/handwash-6steps.pdf](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/444314/handwash-6steps.pdf) posters and a 20 second routine video that you can watch with your children, which is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NpmB80pWUsk>

I will continue to provide you all with further updates from the Department as soon as it becomes available.

More information is available in the [Department of Education's frequently asked questions](#).

I encourage you to stay informed of the latest developments regarding COVID-19 by regularly visiting the [Queensland Government's COVID-19 website](#)

Thank you for your understanding as we continue to work together during these difficult times.

Kind Regards



Andrew Beattie

College Principal