



ILLAWARRA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Monday 20th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Term 2 for Illawarra Christian School commences on Tuesday 28th April 2020. Thank you for your understanding with the alteration to term dates at the end of Term 1. This provided an opportunity for staff to prepare and revise curriculum documentation in preparation for Term 2 and time in Term 3 when hopefully lessons are back to normal.

We have asked our teaching staff to be prepared to teach online for all of Term 2 if required and over the holiday period they have been making arrangements to be able to do so.

The NSW Premier has announced in recent days that the government would like to see students returning to school during Term 2. At this stage no concrete plan of when, how and what that would look like has been communicated with schools. The first two weeks of Term 2 will continue like the end of Term 1 – online learning at home for those who can and school will be open for children of essential workers and those at risk.

Where you are able to keep your children at home, we greatly appreciate this as it protects the staff and school community as we all practise social distancing. Those students who need to be at school will be cared for as they learn online under the supervision of a skeleton school staff.

Those students who require learning support or assistance at school have now been allocated an additional staff member who will make regular contact with them to provide assistance during this remote learning period. Thank you to our support staff for being flexible and stepping into different areas of responsibility to ensure this can happen well.

In addition to our teaching program our school counselling team, pastoral care team and careers staff are still available to support students online as required.

PREP

Prep will remain open. Please refer to earlier communication regarding the fee arrangements in response to government funding announcements at the end of Term 1.

INFANTS AND PRIMARY

Students will be learning online for at least the first few weeks of term and it is anticipated that some form of online learning will continue beyond Week 2. Staff in K-6 will provide a range of lessons that will cover three learning sessions each day. This will comprise all areas of the curriculum but with a key focus on literacy and numeracy.

SECONDARY

Secondary students will continue to learn online following the school timetable. This allows staff to conduct regular interactive lessons with students and for students to not have clashes when they need to engage in various online activities. The nature of the curriculum, skills and content being taught will dictate the timing and style of online interactive lessons. It is important that students follow the school timetable and engage in a meaningful way.

ONLINE LEARNING

Illawarra Christian School will continue to use SEQTA as our online learning platform. Our video conferencing tool from the start of Term 2 will be Zoom. The school has purchased a full licensed version of Zoom that allows us to configure it to meet our educational, privacy and security requirements. Parents and students will receive details of how this works from Mr Rob Spreitzer before school returns – there is no need to set up anything in the meantime, and in fact, we would prefer you did not.

IN CHRIST'S SERVICE, OUR MISSION IS TO PARTNER WITH PARENTS
IN PROVIDING QUALITY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOUNDED ON THE WORD OF GOD

Illawarra Christian School continues to monitor the COVID-19 situation closely, consulting with NSW Health, CEN (Christian Education National) and the AIS (Association of Independent Schools) and evaluating the impact COVID-19 may have on the school and its activities. We continue to follow government advice and have put a range of measures in place for the return of students and staff.

Thank you for your support in these matters. This situation is changing regularly and so our response to it will necessarily also change as new information comes to light. We will keep you informed as quickly as we can when such changes take place. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you have any concerns or queries.

Please continue to pray for the safety and wellbeing of our school community during these uncertain and challenging times. Pray that Christ might be honoured and glorified, and that people may seek him.

Yours in Christ,



Simon Lainson
Principal.