



# ILLAWARRA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 2 2020.

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.

Following the advice from these authorities, school will open on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April for children of essential workers and those who need to access school. All teaching and learning will be in an online format, similar to that of the last week of Term 1. It is expected that all students K–12 will engage with the online learning and participation will be closely monitored.

From Week 3 (Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May) students will commence a staged return to school. All students will be back at school at least one day a week and, assuming Australia continues to maintain low levels of new COVID-19 cases in the following weeks, we will start to see an increase in face-to-face learning. Parents and carers will be notified of these developments as they unfold.

The government has asked us to prioritise a range of needs as we consider the schedule for the staged return of students. While as a school we have sought to address all these preferences, we have had to prioritise the safety and well being of our community and the provision of high-quality teaching and learning at all times. For this reason, we have determined that from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May, for Weeks 3 and 4 of Term 2, the following students will be at school receiving face-to-face lessons on the following days:

Monday:	Kindergarten, Year 7 and Year 12
Tuesday:	Kindergarten, Year 8 and Year 12
Wednesday:	Year 5, Year 6, Year 11 and Year 12
Thursday:	Year 3, Year 4, Year 9 and Year 10
Friday:	Year 1, Year 2 and Year 12

Please note that we have prioritised Kindergarten and Year 12 to receive more face-to-face learning initially. Therefore, Kindergarten will return from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May with two days and Year 12 with four days. Those students of essential workers or who need to access school may continue to do so and supervision of online learning will continue.

When students are not required to be at school for face-to-face learning they will continue to learn online. Please see the attached 'Staged Return to School' document, which briefly outlines the various stages of return to school. We are currently in Stage 1 and will move into Stage 2 on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

Teachers have been working very hard to prepare for Term 2 and will continue to make adjustments as this situation unfolds. Please uphold them in your prayers and be understanding as we continue to adapt to online learning.

ICS will continue to use SEQTA as our online learning platform and Zoom will be used for all online conferencing lessons. If you encounter any difficulties accessing our online learning platforms, please contact the IT staff directly, using the email [support@ics.nsw.edu.au](mailto:support@ics.nsw.edu.au). Today you will also be sent a Digital Learning Agreement through Signmee. Please read it and complete the Signmee form to indicate that you understand the expectations of parents and students.

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

Please be assured that where possible we will enact social distancing practices. The school continues to be thoroughly cleaned with additional cleaning of high touch areas. Staff and students are required to wash hands regularly, hand sanitiser is available for use and all large group gatherings and activities have been cancelled or postponed.

We ask all parents and carers to continue to pick up and drop off children from Derribong Drive and if you must enter the school premises to report first to the school office. When picking up your children from Derribong Drive please keep following social distancing practices.

If your child is unwell, they must not attend school and if they report to school you will be asked to come and collect them immediately. This is for the health and well being of staff and students and we appreciate your support in this matter. If your child is unwell on either a school face-to-face learning day (not attending school) or online learning day (and will not be participating in online learning that day) please contact the school office, as is our normal practice for absences from school.

Prep will continue to operate for those who wish to access this service. Mrs Balson and I will continue to update you through OWNA, Prep's childcare app.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you have any further questions or need clarification.

Despite the challenges that COVID-19 presents us with, we are reminded in Psalm 46:1 that "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" and we are called to be trust and serve him.

Hebrew 10:23 says, "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful."

Thank you for your support,



Simon Lainson  
Principal