



23 March 2020

Dear Parents/Caregivers of K-6 students,

As of this morning, the Premier has announced that schools will remain open at this time. However, she has also encouraged parents to keep their children at home. Accordingly, we are moving to online learning delivery ONLY from Tuesday 25th March so that students who are staying home will not be disadvantaged. Any students who continue to attend school will complete online work within the classrooms, identical to the learning taking place from home.

For K-6 students, we will roll this system out progressively, beginning with one numeracy, one literacy and one other lesson per day.

We are still required to monitor student attendance during this period. For this purpose, please indicate your intentions for your child's schooling by calling the school office, or online via the Google Form which we will send today SEQTA direct message.

PARENTAL PREPARATION FOR OFF-CAMPUS LEARNING

It is important to recognise the unique situation COVID-19 poses and understand that there will be disruptions to learning and, in some cases, a cessation of learning in practical subjects. This is unfortunately unavoidable. Staff will carefully consider how they plan their teaching and learning activities and where possible reschedule practical activities to later in the year. Please consider the following:

- Check your internet connectivity and safety.
- Have access to your child's login and password for SEQTA. This will be sent home to you, along with instructions on how to login.
- Familiarise yourself with the layout of SEQTA.
- Support your child by organising a quiet, distraction free place in which they will be able to engage with their lessons. Any Google Meet sessions will need to be outside of their bedroom.
- Be aware that there will be the need to monitor, and often, direct your child through the instructions, or what needs to be done, before they can attempt the task themselves.
- Students will be expected to engage in learning activities that are based around their school timetable with regard to literacy and numeracy. Teachers will set work for these lessons in particular and will assign a specific lesson each week during the timetabled lessons to be online and connecting as a class. Teachers will be in contact with you to communicate when they wish to have classes connect together online.
- Regularly check your direct messages in SEQTA as this will be used by staff to communicate about how lessons are going and where to next.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT DURING OFF-CAMPUS LEARNING

- Students have a responsibility to be engaging in the learning activities provided by teachers.
- Staff will allocate three lessons per day that require students/parents to log in and engage with the lesson content.
- Staff will also be available to respond to messages at other times.

- Teachers will monitor the level of engagement of students within their classes, monitoring the frequency and level of use of learning content. If there is cause for concern regarding the level of engagement, teachers may email the child's parent, or inform me, to follow this up.
- Formal assessment tasks may be rescheduled or cancelled and grades will be determined using other tasks.
- Staff will look for opportunities for staff/student interaction. God has created us as relational beings and we are aware that for many, school is a place of comfort and connection. We will seek ways to ensure that these connections are continued during Off-Campus Learning.
- Families who are unable to access SEQTA due to connectivity issues should advise the school of this issue as soon as possible. If there is no available device for your child to work on from home, please contact the school office as soon as possible.
- Students should be encouraged to move around at home. Students should move from the screen every 30 mins (stand up and stretch, get a glass of water etc.). During Google Meet sessions it is important that students are always dressed in appropriate modest attire.
- If a teacher becomes unwell and is unable to facilitate their classes, they will message the child's parent on SEQTA indicating that they will be offline on the given day and will arrange a future time for their online lesson.

PASTORAL CARE CONSIDERATIONS - OFF-CAMPUS LEARNING

- To assist in maintaining engagement and connection with students, communication will be provided daily by class teachers. Pastoral care concerns during Off-Campus Learning should follow the same process as usual, which is to direct message your child's teacher through SEQTA. Class teachers will work with me to address any concerns.
- Off-Campus Learning also comes with a heightened responsibility around global citizenship, appropriate and respectful communication and maintaining a high standard with regard to digital reputation. All of these areas require positive choices when navigating this platform, with the importance of self-regulation, consideration of others and consideration of character and values. Students will be required to behave in accordance with our Student Code of Conduct and adhere to our IT policy behaviour requirements during all interactions online.
- Students are encouraged to ensure that they have a focus on sleep, nutrition and exercise so they are best able to engage in their learning and maintain good health.
- We will continue to communicate with our school community and will provide a range of resources to support both parents and students with regard to COVID-19 and approaches to Off-Campus Learning. Please watch your messages in SEQTA as well as utilising our social media platforms and school website to stay abreast of these resources.

Mr Lainson and I appreciate your partnership in helping to communicate these guidelines above to your children. We are confident that through our strong school, student and parent partnership we can navigate this challenging time and continue to provide the high quality education expected at Illawarra Christian School.

If you require any further information, I encourage you to contact the school directly.

Kind regards,



Mrs Jo Fahey
Deputy Principal (Prep-6)