



Our Lady of Mercy College

26 March 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to advise you that in consultation with the College Executive, I have made the decision for the College to move to our Remote Learning Model.

This decision was based on the fact that the majority of students are not physically attending the College.

With this decision made, teachers will now be able to focus their attention upon the single delivery of a quality education experience to suit the current situation. Additionally, the College will be able to respond more appropriately to the varying needs of the staff and to manage their well-being.

The College will continue to remain open and parents are able to send their children to school. The only aspect which is changing is the model used to deliver the education experience.

However, if at all possible, I ask that parents keep their children at home tomorrow, Friday 27 March to allow teachers time to adequately prepare for the following week. Your child is still welcome to attend the College should this not be possible.

I have endeavoured to summarise the information pertaining to Remote Learning into a simple set of points and these are set out towards the conclusion of this letter.

An additional menu tab, Remote Learning, has been added to the College Website. This will provide Parents with additional clarity and information about the model. In particular, timetables which set out the scheduled days and times for teacher/student interactive video conferences are available.

[Remote Learning Information](#)

A short time ago, media sources reported that the Premier, Mark McGowan announced that the last day of current Term had been brought forward to 3 April. He also stated that from 6-9 April schools will provide supervision. There would appear to be some confusion about the nature of these two statements.

Catholic Education will soon provide me with clarity pertaining to these statements and what they mean for Our Lady of Mercy College. When I have clear information, I will contact you again.

I am providing you with this information now to allow the maximum time for parents to consider their situation with regard to the possibility of keeping their child home tomorrow as mentioned earlier.

Thank you for your patience, understanding and words of encouragement to myself and our staff. We are building a strong community of students, parents and staff who "Embrace Life" with a sense of working together.

Remote Learning Understandings;

1. The majority of students are not physically attending the College.
2. Some students may be physically attending the College.

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3. It is not feasible or desirable, to ask teachers to simultaneously deliver valid learning experiences in a face to face manner to students who are present and via remote learning to those who are not present.
4. Teachers will plan and deliver all learning experiences for all students enrolled in their class in a manner that enables them to access the required and relevant materials.
5. To assist students to transition to remote learning, teachers may initially reduce the amount of content delivered and the expectation of student responses to the material presented.
6. SEQTA, Teams and OneNote are the main digital tools which will be used to deliver and conduct learning experiences. Students and teachers are familiar with these tools.
7. Whilst some time may be initially required to achieve transition, all relevant classes should have transitioned within a week of the decision to move to Remote Learning implementation.
8. Year 11 and 12 students will be the initial priority.
9. Year 7 – 10 students will be provided with learning experiences in the core areas of Mathematics, English, Science, HASS and Religious Education.
10. Each week, teachers will deliver one interactive video session and four independent learning sessions in which students complete research, respond to learning stimulus (eg. video, website, readings, challenges, questions) either individually or within groups.
11. A schedule has been prepared to ensure that generally, no student needs to engage in more than two interactive video sessions with a teacher on any particular day.
12. Teachers remain available to interact with and assist students using digital tools via Teams messaging, emails and SEQTA direct messaging.
13. Students who physically attend the College will be supervised by teaching staff whilst they engage in the same remote learning experiences (as though they were not present at the College). The supervising teacher may not necessarily be a student's regular teacher.
14. To assist with maintaining student well-being, students who attend the College will be provided with opportunities (as practical and as available) to participate in physical education activities and access to other experiences as part of their normal curriculum plan at the College.
15. The Remote Learning Plan is a dynamic plan which will respond to situations and experiences as they present.

Parents will continue to be able to contact teachers in the usual manner (apart from physical interactions in most cases).

The College IT Help Desk is ready to assist students and parents with an increased ability and focus on delivering assistance in remote situations. The preferred options for contact are via email ithelpdesk@olmca.wa.edu.au, or via Microsoft Teams in OLMC-Helpdesk Team or by phoning the College on (08) 9720 3300.

As always, I ask that you join me in keeping our community in your prayers.

Regards,



Rob Crothers
Principal

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