



Coronavirus / COVID-19 Update

Thursday 19th March

Contingency Plans for School Closure

Dear Casino Christian School Community

The media has reported extensively about school closures in the light of the Coronavirus. A few wealthy schools in Sydney with significant resources have closed schools this week. Prime Minister Scott Morrison addressed the media yesterday making it very clear that the Federal Government is not intending to close schools at all and that the state governments support this view.

‘The health advice is that schools should remain open ... There is only one reason your kids shouldn’t be going to school, and that is if they are unwell ... don’t leave it to the teacher to work that out.’

‘There is a national public interest here in keeping schools open and our advice is that is not being done at the detriment to the health of any child.’

Closing schools now would mean they would have to remain closed for at least six months, Mr Morrison said, resulting in severe disruption to the education sector.

We fully expect that Casino Christian School will remain open throughout the entire year.

However, given that this is a dynamic situation, it is prudent that we develop contingency plans for school closure.

Contingency Plans

In the unlikely situation that the Government directs us to close, there are three scenarios that we are preparing for:



- The school is closed for cleaning for one or two days in the event that a member of the school tests positive for COVID-19.
- The school is closed for a short period of time (e.g. two weeks).
- The school is closed for an extended period of time (e.g. 6 months).

I would like to reiterate that the government is suggesting that the last two scenarios are not likely at all.

In the event of closure, families will be informed via email and sms.

During this time, online learning will be the expectation; however, it is recognised that some students do not have access to the internet at home. Additionally, some families may only have one device, or a device with no camera, or insufficient bandwidth for the number of children in their family. These are complex problems that cannot be solved in a short period of time. Rest assured that we will do our best in the unlikely event that the school is closed.

One or two day closure

In this scenario, given that the timeframe is very short, the delivery of curriculum is not necessary for any years other than senior school.

Years	Curriculum Delivery
Kindergarten to Year 10	Students will not be expected to do any extra work other than homework or assignments they already have.
Years 11-12	Teachers will instruct students via email.

Short period of time closure

Students will be asked to engage with the curriculum in a different way, depending upon their year level. Years 7 – 12 will need access to the internet for a portion of the day where they will link up with the rest of the class for lessons in some subjects. The platform that we will be using will either be Zoom (a free download) or Google Meet (a part of the Google suite). This will be determined when the ICT Coordinator returns from long service leave.

Years	Curriculum Delivery
Kindergarten to Year 3	Teachers will email ideas for parents to work on with their children in literacy and numeracy.
Years 4 – 6	Teachers will focus on literacy and numeracy. Students will be asked to use Zoowhiz for their learning as well as research and comprehension tasks.
Years 7 – 10	English and Maths lessons will be prioritised for online learning using a video link with either Google Meet or Zoom. Worksheets and research tasks will also be expected to be completed.
Years 11 – 12	All lessons will be presented using a video link with either Google Meet or Zoom.



Extended period of time closure

Similar to a short period of time closure, there are different expectations for different years.

Years	Curriculum Delivery
Kindergarten to Year 3	Teachers will email ideas for parents to work on with their children in literacy and numeracy. Some literacy and numeracy video links may be made available.
Years 4 – 6	Teachers will focus on literacy and numeracy. English and Maths lessons will be prioritised for online learning using a video link with either Google Meet or Zoom. Worksheets and research tasks will also be expected to be completed.
Years 7 – 10	Most lessons will be presented for online learning using a video link with either Google Meet or Zoom, although English and Mathematics will be prioritised. Worksheets and research tasks will be given.
Years 11 – 12	All lessons will be presented using a video link with either Google Meet or Zoom.

I do not want to create any undue stress for families and so I am again stating that it is extremely unlikely that the last two scenarios will eventuate.

Secondary Messages

On another note, if the Coronavirus pandemic has affected your livelihood, please come and talk to Mr Bongers about any financial pressures before it becomes a problem.

I would also like to remind parents that if your child is presenting as unwell, then you should keep your child at home.

Regards

Graeme Jolliffe

Principal