



## Our Lady of Mercy College

26 March 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

In my earlier letter today, I referred to media sources reporting that the Premier, Mark McGowan had made announcements which would impact upon schools. I advised that Catholic Education would provide me with clarity pertaining to these statements and what they would mean for Our Lady of Mercy College.

I am now in a position to provide you with additional information.

In line with Premier Mark McGowan's latest announcement regarding new learning arrangements in Western Australian government schools, parents with children in all Catholic schools in Western Australia should **keep their children at home from the close of school tomorrow (Friday 27 March)**, if at all possible.

Given that I have already advised the community of our move to Remote Learning and requested parents to keep their child(ren) home, I am not looking to change this arrangement and cause confusion. In essence, the new advice is that wherever possible, parents should keep children at home for the foreseeable future.

This decision has been made to prioritise the health and wellbeing of the Western Australian community and is based on the best national medical advice.

### **Students attending school**

Schools will remain open to ensure that Remote Learning takes place, as well as to supervise children of parents currently working in health or essential services. Parents who are currently involved in health or essential services **who require their child to attend school** to be supervised in their Remote Learning will need to advise the College in writing (SEQTA direct message or email is acceptable).

Parents are now required to inform the school if their child will be attending.

Parents will not be required to contact the school if their child is remaining at home.

### **School term changes**

The Premier has further announced that Term 1 for students will now conclude on Friday, 3 April. However, staff will attend during Week 10 (the week leading into Easter) and engage in preparation for the provision of Remote Learning for the commencement of Term 2. Parents who are involved in the provision of essential services will continue to be able to send their children to school during this week. However, there will be no Remote Learning or other educational activity taking place. Staff will be available to supervise children who attend.

This is a difficult time for all in Western Australia and it is normal that your children may be feeling anxious or worried. Catholic Education Western Australia remains focused on the care and wellbeing of all students, staff and families and as a Catholic community, I encourage you to pray for the health of all in our communities, especially those who are more vulnerable.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Crothers".

**Rob Crothers**  
**Principal**

Embracing Life | Nurturing Faith | Inspiring Learning

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