

5 May 2020



Our Lady of Mercy College

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Most will be aware of the continuing very low level of transmission of the COVID-19 virus within the WA community. As parents become more confident that schools are safe, there is the potential for more children to physically return to school.

As the Principal of Our Lady of Mercy College, I have been continuing to carefully monitor the number of students attending the College to ascertain if a 'tipping point' has been reached. Reaching this 'tipping point' would indicate that it is in the best interest of students for teachers to make adjustments to the way in which they are providing instruction.

Following careful consideration of student attendance data, I have determined that it would be in the best interest of the majority of students for the College to resume regular face-to-face classroom teaching for all year groups, commencing this coming Friday, 8 May 2020.

In coming to this decision, I have considered;

- The health and wellbeing of students and staff.
- Equity of learning opportunities of all students, whether at home or at school.
- Parental choice regarding their child's attendance at school or working at home.

Teachers will now adopt face-to-face teaching as the primary mode of instruction.

Students who continue to work from home will continue to receive quality support in the completion of their learning tasks, however, interactive video sessions will cease as of Friday morning. Teachers will continue to provide feedback and answer questions via the usual means as time permits.

The school will return to normal operation including Homeroom, playground supervision, access to specialist facilities and access to the 'Learning Commons' resource. The Café will also resume normal operation. Students were encouraged to take their resources home to support their learning, they should now begin to bring these resources back to the College. Given the weight and bulk of these materials, it is suggested that this take place over several days.



Parents may still choose to send their children to school or to keep them home. At this stage, regulations are still enforced which require parents to drop their child(ren) at the school gates and not enter the College grounds.

In the near future, I am hoping to provide you with confirmed information pertaining to the provision of Semester One Reports, ATAR Examinations and other West Australian Certificate of Education requirements.

I thank you for your ongoing support and co-operation during this turbulent time and I look forward to welcoming the majority of students back to the College in the very near future.

Regards,



Rob Crothers
Principal

