



Our Lady of Mercy College

23 March 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

RE: REMOTE TEACHING AND LEARNING CONTINUITY PLAN

In line with the latest advice from Commonwealth and WA governments, Our Lady of Mercy College is planning to remain open at least until the end of term to provide the best possible education to your children. The Prime Minister and the WA Minister for Education advise that, parents may choose to keep their children at home during this unprecedented time.

State and territory Premiers and Chief Ministers have committed to the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee advice that says that it is safe to keep schools open.

Parents may choose to keep their children at home. This is a family-based decision, and the College respects that decision. Parents who choose to keep their child(ren) at home are asked to notify the College of this. Students who are not attending school because parents have chosen not to send them will be able to engage with their learning remotely.

Students and parents already have access to SEQTA which provides a range of information to support student learning. Throughout the proceeding weeks, teaching staff have been endeavouring to upskill and prepare new materials and learning formats to support independent remote learning. Parents are asked to be mindful that staff have been undertaking this work whilst fully engaged in their regular classroom teaching.

Whilst much progress has been made, we are still finalising some of the details for our remote learning plan.

It is our intention to adopt a learning process that can be used for students who are attending the College and students who are engaged in remote learning at home. Below is a detailed outline of our College's remote teaching and learning continuity plan that provides clarity for teachers, students and parents around what is to be expected going forward.

COVID-19 is a changing situation that is affecting many areas of our lives and it is normal for all of us to feel anxious and worried, your child included.

Our teachers and other school staff are doing a wonderful job in providing pastoral support to students at this challenging time. It is important to remember that as parents, you can help your child process all the information they are receiving and the changes that are taking place around COVID-19. You can stay informed and provide factual, age appropriate information about COVID-19 that will help your child feel informed and empowered, rather than afraid.

Thank you for your support at this time, and as a Catholic community I encourage all of you to pray for those coordinating our response in Australia, and for all of those in Australia and abroad affected by COVID-19.

As always, I ask that you contact the College if you have any concern that may relate to your child.

Yours sincerely,

Rob Crothers
Principal

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Remote Teaching and Learning Continuity Plan



Our Lady of
Mercy College

How Study Will Continue:

- The College is well prepared to deliver lesson plans remotely via SEQTA, Teams and OneNote. Parents are familiar with this learning management tool and are therefore encouraged to familiarise themselves with their child(ren)'s lesson expectations.
- Year 11 and 12 students are our priority.
- Senior students in Year 11 and 12, studying ATAR courses are encouraged to do both planned lessons and independent research/study, as needed.
- Those students in Year 11 and 12 pursuing a general pathway, including certificate courses, need to continue accessing their certificate units, as they do currently, in addition to completing their set lessons on SEQTA, for general subjects.
- The College staff will provide lessons in the 5 core areas (Mathematics, English, Science, HASS and Religious Education) for Years 7-10.
- Our remote learning model will generally be comprised of one teacher lead interactive video session and four independent learning sessions in which students complete research, respond to learning stimulus (eg. video, website, readings, challenges, questions) and respond either individually or within groups. Contact can be maintained with the teacher and other students in the class via Teams messaging, emails and SEQTA direct messaging. The interactive video session provides each student with the opportunity to ask questions and have a face-to-face interaction with their teacher.
- A schedule of days/times is being developed for each class/teacher in the designated learning areas.
- Families should be prepared for possible connectivity issues with so many students at home. Students should be prepared to continue lessons using their textbooks, as needed. For assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our IT Helpdesk on ithelpdesk@olmca.wa.edu.au.
- The support of parents is paramount in ensuring students access their lessons and continue with their studies.
- All students are asked to begin taking all their books home every day, in preparation for a possible closure of the College; for the foreseeable future it is best that students only bring required books and stationery to school.
- For students who continue to attend the College, social distancing will be promoted within the context of an educational setting.
- Cleaning regimes will continue to be completed to the highest possible standards to mitigate risks associated with the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Additional information regarding procedures in the event of a complete school closure can be found in The College Response Plan already sent out to all families. A copy of the plan can also be found on the College Website <https://www.olmca.wa.edu.au/coronavirus>.

The College is very appreciative of your ongoing support, as we continue to do whatever is necessary to ensure the wellbeing of students, staff and families.

Your patience and support during this transitional time of learning is requested and the College is confident of your support.

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