



Update From The Headmaster - 22, July 2021

From The Headmaster - Mr Brendan Gorman

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Dear Parents and Carers of the St Peter's Community

We continue to grapple with the implications of the current extended lockdown. This is incredibly challenging navigating implications given I am provided with numerous updates from NSW Health, the Association of Independent Schools and media outlets each day. It is therefore impossible to provide any element of clarity on this matter. Be assured that Senior Executive staff are meeting on a daily basis at the moment to consider all options.

I am incredibly pleased with the level of engagement of Off Campus Learning (OCL) and want to highlight the exemplary efforts of our teaching staff at this time. I recognise that OCL is not ideal for many and this includes our teachers, who would absolutely prefer face to face, relational learning. I have been impressed with additions such as daily class zoom check ins, focusing on pastoral care, wellbeing and connection. Be assured that our teachers are working significantly harder and longer hours than the long hours they normally undertake.

Our staff are spending an inordinate amount of time attached to screens and my responsibility is for their wellbeing also. Zoom fatigue is a real thing not just the face to face times our staff are with your children, but their collaborative planning time, lesson organisation, responding to emails and queries. This is extensive and our staff are doing an amazing job. As a community, your ongoing understanding and support is really appreciated at this time.

This week, we have been provided with updates that strengthen the expectations of the stay at home orders. The information provided to schools states that: **"Parents must keep children at home if they can, any age and in primary, secondary and early childhood and care services"**.

To assist staff to balance their responsibilities at this time, from Monday next week, anyone requiring their children to be at school must complete the Student Registration Form below .

Please complete this form for Week 2 by 5.00pm on Friday, 23 July to assist with the organisation of teaching staff.

STUDENT REGISTRATION FORM

This will ask for your details including current contact details, your occupation and where you are working for the day you require your child/ren to be at school. If you are able to keep your children at home, you are required to do so. School is operating remotely in our Off Campus Learning environment, with the School gates remaining open only for those who require the service.

Teachers are in the process of preparing learning packs to support the provided off campus lessons. Packs will be available on Wednesday 28 July, from 11am, through the Kiss 'n' Drop. Please remain in your car, remembering to wear a mask when speaking with a member of staff.

I am also conscious that some students will be feeling a sense of isolation, anxiety or additional stress. If you find your child in this space and would value any suggestions, advice or support, please do not hesitate to contact: wellbeing@stpeters.nsw.edu.au. One of our suitable pastoral staff will be in touch in these circumstances.

I will continue to communicate as I am able with relevant updates, whilst being conscious of email overload.

Please be assured of our ongoing prayers and concern for all in the St Peter's community at this time.

Mr Brendan Gorman
Headmaster