



Dear Parents/Carers

I want to thank you for your support as we have managed a very different and unusual start to Term 2 this year. Together, we have been able to make the best of this situation to ensure your child's learning has been able to continue, while maintaining our operations within the COVID – 19 management requirements.

In the week leading up to May 18 2020, State Government announced changes to education based on a review of updated health advice. I am writing to confirm that from today, Monday 18 May 2020, all students are expected to attend school, except for those students medically referred to learn from home.

This means students are either:

- at school;
- have a medical referral to learn from home; or
- recorded as absent if they do not attend, as has been the practice in the past.

Over the last three weeks we have seen approximately 80% of our students return to school, which has been very pleasing. It is now time for students to return to normal school attendance and once again establish a sense of routine and direction to their studies. The College staff are looking forward to welcoming the remaining students back to school and assisting them to recommence their classroom learning.

Current health advice states that schools remain safe for staff and students and should remain open. We want to make sure all children get the best education possible, which is why attending school is so important.

For parents with medical advice that their child should not attend school, we will work with you in partnership with the School of Special Educational Needs: Medical and Mental Health to support your child's learning from home. If you feel your child is in this category, please phone the College on 9262 7777 or email at Ballajura.cc@education.wa.edu.au and we will work with you to manage this.

The State Government has also directed that if your child does not attend school without a medical reason, they will be marked as absent and will not be provided a learning program.

A number of COVID – 19 management requirements remain in place:

- The extra cleaning and hygiene practices implemented at the start of Term 2 will continue;
- Social distancing measures, where possible will continue;
- Students and staff will continue to be asked to wash and sanitise hands regularly;
- Parents/carers are still required to only drop children at the College and not enter the school grounds;
- Year group and whole school activities, meetings, interschool sport and assemblies remain postponed;
- Excursions remain postponed, with the exception that Year 11 and 12 excursions (maximum of 20 participants only) that are required for course completion can now resume;
- Normal class structures and timetable remain in operation;
- Apprenticeship and traineeship placements can recommence, with special management requirements;
- The uniform shop will re-open, with social distancing requirements in place; and
- The College canteen will continue to operate with COVID – 19 food management requirements in place.

Also, for your information, we have had notification of a confirmed case of a student with Chickenpox. The student is not attending school. Chickenpox usually starts with cold-like symptoms, followed by the appearance of a red spotty rash and generally feeling unwell. If your child displays these symptoms we recommend that you contact your family doctor, and please advise the College of the outcome of this consultation.

Parents/carers are reminded that if your child or children are sick with seasonal cold or flu to please keep them at home. This is in line with standard expectations and practice and is an important requirement at this time.

Please remember that if urgent mental health advice and support is required for yourself or your children, there is a 24 hour crisis support line 1800 048 636.

We continue to wish you the best in these difficult times, and thank you for the support you are providing the College.

Yours sincerely

Leigh Cottrill, Principal

May 18, 2020

Following is correspondence from the Chief Health Officer, Dr Andy Robertson for your consideration.



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Dear parents and students

Updated Advice from the Chief Health Officer

Schools have now been open for students since the commencement of Term 2 and I am very encouraged by the way the school community, parents and students are caring for their health and attending school in a responsible way. This is building community confidence in the safety of our schools with the overall attendance rate reaching over 82%.

WA recently recorded 14 days with only 2 reported cases, both of whom were rapidly identified and are in isolation. With over 56,000 negative tests and only 7 active cases, there is no evidence of community transmission.

The WA State Government has recently announced further decisions about the easing of restrictions in our state as part of a phased approach in the management of the pandemic. These decisions have been based on public health advice and will continue to be carefully monitored in the weeks ahead.

Public health measures already in place to protect the community will remain a focus during this time, including broad testing, comprehensive contact tracing when a case is identified, isolation and quarantine measures where required, and education about social distancing and hand hygiene. Plans remain in place to ensure immediate response to any reported infections in the school setting when needed to prevent the spread of any illness.

I continue to recommend that schools should remain open to all students and families should be encouraged to return their children to the classroom. If your child is more vulnerable due to health problems or you have a vulnerable adult living in your home, then I would recommend seeking advice from your specialist medical practitioner as to whether returning to school remains the best option for you.

We need to remain diligent during this time and I encourage you to please make sure you keep your child home if they are unwell and, if you or your child have fever, cough or cold symptoms, get tested for COVID-19. We should all continue to follow the social distancing guidelines when interacting with other parents, teachers and school staff.

Thank you again for your leadership and support during this challenging time. Yours sincerely

DR ANDY ROBERTSON, May 2020