



14 April 2020

COVID 19 – UPDATE 6

Dear College Families,

Yesterday, the Premier and Minister for Education announced the arrangements for Queensland schools from the start of Term 2. In summary, from 20th April 2020 for a period of five weeks until 22 May, all students will be learning from home, except for the children of essential workers.

What will this look like at FCAC?

Teaching and learning under these circumstances will look quite different to what it does in the regular school context. The Head of Junior School, Mrs Brown, and the Head of Middle and Senior School, Mrs Hallam, will be providing all families with **Online Learning Guidelines** by the end of this week which will outline the processes for the next five weeks. In these guidelines you will note that:

- We will not be following our regular timetable.
- Students won't 'see' their teacher as frequently as they do at school but they will have opportunities for direct online contact with staff.
- Teachers will devote more of their time to developing online content to support learning.
- Those children learning on campus in the next five weeks will be following the same Online Learning program that children at home are following. While at school, these students will be supervised by various staff while they complete their tasks independently. They will connect and interact with their teachers in the same way as their peers at home.
- For those families who have limited access to devices, we are prepared to loan out the classroom devices that we have available to support you. Junior School families should contact our Deputy Head of Junior School, Mr David Brown, and Middle and Senior School families should contact our Dean of eLearning, Mr Darryl Humphreys.

Attendance

For the upcoming five-week period, we are asking families to only contact us via absent@fcac.qld.edu.au if you are sending your children to school. **Parents who have children learning from home do not need to contact us.** Children who are not at school will be listed as learning from home. You only need to contact us if your circumstances change and your children need to attend school.

Tips for Successful Learning from Home

Recreating the structure and routines of school in the home can be one way of helping your child see that online learning is a normal school day.

- A good start is to create a learning space that contains minimal distractions. It doesn't have to be a typical school desk setup; it can be a space that works for your child.
- Routines are great for children. Some families follow the school timetable rigidly, with set times for different lessons and breaks, even wearing their school uniform to help set the right tone. Older children may want to set their own routines and you should discuss this with them. You know what will work best for your child, the key is consistency.
- Setting goals and insisting on realistic outcomes can help children prioritise and focus. Be sure to celebrate their successes.
- You don't need to be the teacher. Be there to support, encourage and facilitate. There will be times when you are not sure how to do what has been set by the teacher and that's where the teacher plays a role. It's always a good idea to try and work through any challenges first as this models positive problem solving techniques for your child. There will be clear lines of communication for parents outlined in the Online Learning Guidelines that will be sent to all families.

We are well-prepared for this new scenario but we also know that there will be a period of adjustment for students, staff and parents. There are aspects of this that your children will embrace and others that they may find challenging. This can place extra pressure on households during what is already a stressful time. When you encounter any challenges, please remember that our staff are dedicated to supporting your child. Please reach out to us.

We will be reviewing our processes each week and making positive adjustments where needed. The relevant staff will be in contact should we make any changes to our programs throughout the next five weeks. We are receiving regular updates from key sources and will pass these on to you as necessary.

During this time of online learning, it is important to remember that at FCAC we care about the holistic development of our students. We will be providing opportunities to keep building our relationships with our students and we want them to know that we are here for them when they need us.

Kind regards,



Joe Wright