

2nd April 2020

Dear Emmaus families and friends

As I type I look out my office window over the Junior School playground full of young people playing, laughing and generally enjoying God's amazing creation, while of course practicing 'social-distancing' as best our younger community members can! With a significant number of our students still in physical attendance at school this week, Emmaus for me personally represents an 'oasis' of normality at a time where this is not always evident elsewhere. I do understand however, that many of you and your families have been heavily impacted by recent developments, but am keen to share the joy your children have continued to bless us with here at Emmaus at this time.

I write to you today to provide an update regarding the short to medium term arrangements ahead at Emmaus. For clarity, I'll use a 'dot-point' format due to the volume of information to share:

- The Early Learning Centre (ELC) will remain operating as normal at this time (including Week 11, School holidays, and Term 2).
- Week 10 (this week) will conclude as normal with South Plympton (SP) and Brooklyn Park (BP) school students in attendance on site.
- Week 11 (next week) will be a student free week (not including ELC) where students effectively enter holidays a week early according to the recent State Government announcement (however Year 12 teachers may still be providing their students work as required - off site).
- Week 11 will be a normal 'on site' working week for Emmaus employees, hence the office (SP & BP) will remain contactable as usual for families. Across this week, both South Plympton and Brooklyn Park school teaching staff will be onsite at the South Plympton campus and will undertake a special 'Remote Learning Readiness' professional development program developed by College Leadership.
- Week 11 will also see eligible children of "essential workers" able to attend our South Plympton campus where they will be supervised. Educational programs will not be delivered as these are student free days. Any eligible Brooklyn Park families will access this service at South Plympton (not provided at Brooklyn Park). Families who require these services are required to register their interest in advance (and complete a declaration form) which I understand has already taken place.
- The student free day scheduled for the first day of Term 2 (27th April) has been **cancelled**.
- Educationally Term 2 will commence on Monday 27th April 2020 with:
 - All teaching staff on site at their respective Emmaus campuses delivering remote learning programs to their students
 - Students F-12 in their homes engaging with these remote learning programs delivered by their teachers
 - On site supervision (as per the Week 11 arrangements) at the South Plympton campus remaining available **ONLY** for children of eligible 'essential workers'. A new declaration / registration process will be undertaken for eligible families to access these services prior to the commencement of Term 2. While supervised at the College, these students will undertake their remote learning programs in the same way as their class mates will do from home.



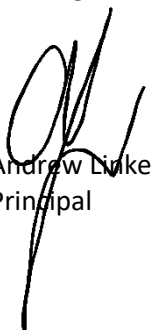
- Although Term 2 will commence in remote education delivery mode in schools across the country (as is our plan at Emmaus), it is unclear if this will be for the entirety of Term 2 at this stage. It seems 'reasonable' at this time to expect this will be the case, but families will be periodically updated about this as information becomes available during Term 2.

The exact nature of remote learning commencing from Term 2, Day 1 will be tailor-made for the different age related developmental needs of students in each sub school. As our school students vary from 5 to 18 years of age, very different approaches are required to undertake this important task of remote education meaningfully and successfully. Emmaus is blessed with a highly skilled and experienced professional body of teachers who have been planning for this new Term 2 delivery mode for some time now. Before the end of next week (Week 11), each Head of School will write to parents with students in each sub schools providing full details about exactly how this remote teaching and learning process will operate from the beginning of Term 2. This will include information about expectations for students as well as what parents can do to best support the process. Heads of School will also periodically seek feedback from parents at key points in Term 2 to help refine our approach as we remain committed to achieving the very best educational outcomes for your children. We are also carefully planning how we can continue to support students who have additional learning needs in this new Term 2 delivery mode. Further information about this will be shared with relevant families as it becomes available.

I appreciate you may have many questions about the practical elements of teaching and learning in Term 2 for your children. I also have school age children myself and can assure you I have all the same questions! Our teaching staff at Emmaus are working tirelessly at this time to effectively plan for every element of this season ahead, and I have been most impressed by both their diligence and creativity as they have approached this task in such a short time frame. I ask that you please refrain from raising any specific questions in relation to the 'how' of Term 2 until you have received the detailed information from the respective Head of School next week. I would expect this information will address most if not all of your questions. However, if you have unanswered questions remaining after that time, please follow up directly with your child's teacher or Head of School as necessary.

As shared in my previous correspondence, I encourage you to periodically check the special COVID-19 link on our Emmaus website <https://emmauscc.sa.edu.au/news-events/covid-19-updates>. We have recently added some additional resources for families including a link from the SACE Board (especially relevant for families with Year 12 students) and a very helpful link from the SA Government relating to parents and remote learning.

Blessings



Andrew Linke
Principal