

**ST MARY'S**  
CATHOLIC COLLEGE  
CASINO



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24 March, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

I am writing to update you in relation to Covid-19, given yesterday's announcements by the Prime Minister and Premier. Also attached is the most recent communication from Lismore CSO.

In NSW, while schools are to remain open, Premier Berejiklian advised that parents are being encouraged to keep their children at home, if they are able to. In line with this directive, while St Mary's will remain open, tomorrow (Wednesday) we will move to an alternate timetable for the day where all classes will be collapsed into ONE class only per year level. Traditional classes will then cease from today (Tuesday), with students in attendance from Wednesday (25 March) moving into a 'blended learning' environment, similar to students learning from home. This approach is explained more fully in Dr Towns' letter which all students received today (and is also attached). We have also made the decision to close the Canteen, Homework Centre and Uniform Shop, effective from Wednesday 25 March until the end of Term 1.

If you are intending to keep your child/ren home for the remainder of the term, it would be appreciated if you could let our office staff know this to save unnecessary text messages each day.

As you would by now be aware, the 2020 NAPLAN testing for students in Years 7 & 9 has been cancelled. We are also expecting further advice for our HSC students after NESA meets tomorrow.

Finally, if you do decide to continue sending your children to school, could I ask that you reiterate to them appropriate 'social distancing' etiquette. While schools and workplaces are exempt, many students do not appear to understand the potential gravity of the situation we are all currently facing. Your support here is greatly appreciated.

So in summary:

- In accordance with the Premier's advice, wherever possible, students should stay home and access their lessons via Google classroom.
- If students attend school they will be supervised but to access the same online learning available to students at home.
- Teachers will aim to provide high-quality educational opportunities for your students online, but this is new for everyone so please be patient
- The goal is not to have every student stuck on a screen for 5 hours every day. Hopefully, all students will remain engaged, but for some subjects, this could include book work, reading, exercise, practical activities etc.
- Things will develop as we work out the best way to support all children through this tricky time.

Wherever possible I encourage parents (if they are home), to also engage with their child's schoolwork as this will make the whole experience more successful.

I will provide you with regular updates throughout the coming days as further information becomes available.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Tracy Robinson  
**Principal**