



26 August, 2021

Dear Parents and Students,

With the announcement this morning of another two weeks of lockdown, I hope that all students and families are coping and you are staying safe and staying home wherever possible.

As a College, we understand every family is coping differently with online learning and I appreciate the time and effort students and parents are putting into continuing contact with teachers, lessons and work.

In response to some recent inquiries, I would like to clarify the College's blended learning procedures and quell some concerns about the continuation of lockdown. Blended learning is very different to Face-to-Face teaching. Teachers are preparing and posting work for each day. They are organising Zoom check-ins and responding to email from parents and students directly. They are also marking work and providing feedback to the students who are submitting work. Our staff are endeavouring to make contact with students and parents who are not submitting work.

The Lismore Catholic Schools Office (CSO) have given directives to schools that we should be providing work each day for year 7-10 students and we should be using our professional discretion for the amount of Stage 6 work that is given. They have asked schools this week to increase our pastoral program in light of fears of increased school disengagement from students and a concern for their wellbeing whilst at home in isolation.

According to this policy, the College has implemented the following:

- Work is set for students in years 7-10 according to their College timetable. This can be found on Schoolworx. Work should be released each day for their subjects at 9:00am. This work should be enough to cover approximately half of their lesson time. For each class a student has, they are scheduled approximately 2 Zoom classes per week.
- Our senior students are on exams this week and so no work has been set for them. This is in line with the College exam procedure where no classes are held for any subject during exam week. Classes will commence for these students next week.
- The College has scheduled 3 Homeroom Zooms during the week - Monday, Wednesday and Friday. These Zooms are used as a pastoral check in and start at the regular school time of 8:45am. Students are also encouraged to complete the wellbeing survey each week as another opportunity for our staff to monitor their wellbeing.
- Parents should be receiving emails from Google classrooms each week outlining the work that is scheduled and due. Parents can opt - in the settings - to receive daily emails if they would like to be more informed of their child's progress. Please contact the front office if you wish to switch to daily emails.

- Parents will receive contact from the school if their child is not attending Zooms and/or not handing in work.

As the lockdown continues, we have no intention of increasing the amount of work given to students, or the number of tasks and Zooms students are expected to complete. As a Catholic systemic school, we are bound by the directives of the CSO and they have made it very clear that as lockdown continues we need to be adhering to their daily hours and procedures.

We understand this lockdown has been difficult for everyone. Every family is in a different position and we need to try and balance the needs of our students and families with the educational advancement we expect to see at the end of each school year. Please be assured, as all students are in the same boat, no student is going to be academically compromised by the amount of work being scheduled during this time. If you are concerned about your child's classwork or wellbeing, please contact the teacher or Year/Stage Coordinator directly.

The College is hopeful we will be seeing all students face to face sooner rather than later and this academic year can continue as normal. We are trying our best to maintain contact with each student and to contact home should issues arise. We understand blended learning is not easy, and we hope to continue to work with each family to find solutions which best suit all students at this time.

Yours sincerely,



Tracy Robinson  
**Principal**