

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update #7 – 22 March 2020

The coronavirus situation is currently moving very fast and advice is changing quickly. As a result of the most recent address by our Prime Minister a short time ago, this update will provide you with some reassurance in regard to the coming days and our plans if Hillbrook is closed.

What we know right now:

- Public gathering places such as pubs, clubs, movie theatres, gyms, restaurants etc will be closed down from 12pm tomorrow.
- School is open as normal tomorrow as there is no change to health advice relating to schools. While Victoria is choosing to close schools three days early, it is still the advice of the Ministerial Health Advisory Committee that students are safer at school with good social distancing and health measures in place.
- Parents can choose to keep their children at home if they wish to, however they must observe the new social distancing rules that take effect tomorrow.
- At this stage schools will open after the holidays, subject to advice from the AHPPC and the Chief Medical Officer.
- This is a situation unlike anything we've ever experienced and we are doing the best we can to ensure everyone in our community remains safe.
- Stopping the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) is everyone's responsibility.
- We are in a position to continue with your child's education if we are closed.

What we are doing from tomorrow:

- We have implemented a range of increased hygiene and social distancing measures – full details [here](#).
- We have staggered some break times to allow for more space when students are moving between lessons. The only change which will impact some parents is Year 7 students will finish their day at 3:10pm each day.
- We would ask you to drop your children at school as close to 8:30am as you can (if possible).
- If your children are catching public transport, please remind them of safe hygiene measures and to wash their hands when they arrive at school, and when they return home.
- If your child needs to wear their sports uniform, they can wear it all day, eliminating the need for students to be changing in a confined space.
- The Tuckshop and Uniform Shop are no longer accepting cash – it is card only.

- If possible, we would prefer all Tuckshop orders to be placed online, this way the students can move quickly through the Tuckshop. You can order [here](#) by choosing My Monitor.

If you have chosen to keep your children home or are considering this option:

- Your children can continue with their lessons via online@hillbrook
- At this stage full remote learning will not be available unless the entire school has been officially closed. The enormity of running two separate teaching scenarios is not in the best interest of our students and teachers at this time. We will review this situation over the holidays and in line with further announcements from the authorities.
- Your children will be responsible for following up with their teachers and continuing with work already in progress.
- Parents are responsible for ensuring children who are at home observe the new rules handed down by our Prime Minister tonight.

How we have prepared for remote learning:

- Each Subject Coordinator has been working with Teachers and are finalising remote learning materials which will be known as Hillbrook At Home (H@H).
- Timetables have been created, reflecting students' current schedule, along with a learning plan for each subject area, and online resources.
- We have tested (and will continue to test) Zoom and other platforms to provide important face-to-face time for students and teachers

What happens if the school is closed:

- If we are advised to close, the first day will be a student free day to allow teachers the time to transition lessons and timetables to remote learning mode.
- Parents will receive a comprehensive message designed to help you support your children working their school day from home. This situation will be new for many parents and students.
- We won't expect your children to be sitting at a computer all day long, and we have planned a suggested timetable for the day which includes breaks, exercise and other activities.

We understand that school fees might be on the minds of some parents right now as work situations change and the future is filled with so many unknowns. Please be assured we will be looking at ways to support families, and we will work through this together.

It's times like these when the power of community is truly realised and we hope this update provides you with some answers and clarity.

Yours sincerely

School Leadership Team