

27 March 2020

Be of
COURAGE



Dear Parents and Carers

Today is the final day of Term 1 here at The Geelong College. It has been a term full of surprises, some sadness, lots of uncertainty as well as plenty of success along the way.

I have written and spoken many times before about the importance of connections for people within The Geelong College. Our community comprises people from the present and the past, including students, parents as well as employees (teachers and support staff). In addition to strong connections to our local area we have important connections extending across the nation and the World. Throughout this term I have been constantly reminded of the strength of these connections as we have faced many challenges. The more positive connections we have as a community, the stronger we are. This has also been evident this Term.

Over the last week we have embarked on a new approach to providing our students with the experience of teaching and learning. Our Remote Learning model has been tested this week and it will continue to evolve. I am very appreciative of the outstanding work of our teaching and support staff who have moved quickly and capably to ensure the experience of our students is as good as it can be. Our commitment to continue to improve our practice in all aspects of Remote Learning will remain in place for as long as we are required to engage in it.

Given the current situation and the information available to us, we are expecting to continue with Remote Learning for at least the first week of Term 2. In the event of any change to this arrangement, I will circulate the relevant information as soon as possible using the range of electronic forms available to us. These methods include direct email to parents, The Geelong College website and The Geelong College Facebook page.

Each Head of School will be sending information to parents relevant to their school today. This is important information covering academic, pastoral and logistical aspects of the current plan in addition to some reflections on the past week.

In addition to a public health issue, in recent days we have seen the significant impact of the restricted movements of people upon our economy. We are mindful of the economic impact upon our families and very concerned about them. The College Council will be giving consideration to ways of assisting families in these uncertain times. A number of strategies are currently under consideration. Communication about this will be distributed in due course. At this time, I would like to reassure everyone that The Geelong College will take its place as a responsible member of the wider community in addition to supporting our students to the maximum capacity available.

It is going to be an unusual Easter break this year. Travel restrictions and the prospect of greater restrictions on our movements are looming. With a little luck and through community compliance, they may not be necessary. At this moment we have to wait and see. I hope you have an opportunity to find balance and calm over the Easter break. There is certainly going to be lots of time spent with family.

Thank you for your ongoing support and patience at this very challenging time.

Yours sincerely



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Principal

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