



# The Kilmore International School

Tuesday, 17 March 2020

Dear Parents,

In the fast evolving response by the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments to the coronavirus (COVID-19), I wish to provide you with the school's response to some of the latest developments.

## **Student safety and wellbeing at school**

My colleagues and I share the priority of safeguarding all children in the school. Some of you have emailed advising me of the temporary withdrawal of your son or daughter from school to ensure their safety and wellbeing. I understand the extra precautions you are making and respect your decision. As previously advised, we will follow the protocols established for Victorian Independent schools in relation to COVID-19 communication and decision-making. The current recommendation (see attached) of the Victorian Chief Health Officer is that schools should remain open at this time. This recommendation is based on the public health advice of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC).

TKIS has no confirmed cases or suspected cases of COVID-19. We will of course immediately inform you of any confirmed diagnosis involving students or staff. Please note that the Department of Health and Human Services may advise that a school be closed for 24 hours in the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 to enable contact tracing to occur. Should there be a confirmed case or suspected case of COVID-19, we will immediately enact our management plan.

## **International student exemptions**

The Australian Government has previously announced travel restrictions for travellers arriving from China, Iran, Italy and Korea to Australia. Everyone else arriving into Australia from overseas from midnight, Sunday 15 March, will be required to self-isolate for 14 days. The only exemption to this restriction of travel is for Year 11 and 12 students already enrolled at an Australian school, who will be allowed to travel to Australia on a case-by-case basis. I am pleased to report that we have a number of eligible Year 11 and Year 12 students who have been granted permission to travel to Australia to resume their studies of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. They will of course be subject to the same strict isolation conditions that apply to everyone else and will not return to school without medical clearance.

## **School Events**

The Victorian Department of Education have advised that from today all external excursions and camps should be postponed, rescheduled or, if there is no other option, cancelled. In line with this advice, all TKIS camps scheduled on Monday 30 March (Years 5 to 12) or Monday 20 April (Years 3 and 4) will not proceed.

Internal school events this week such as Casual Clothes Day this Thursday will take place but Athletics Day next week has been cancelled.

Please note that tutorials will continue as scheduled whilst the school is open.

*"Excellentia Academica Persequenda"*



## Preparing for Home Learning

The school continues to prepare for the online delivery of learning in the event of a school closure. In order to prepare for off-site learning, we will set one professional practice and implementation day for staff on Wednesday 25 March. This will be a pupil-free day. Normal lessons will resume at school on Thursday 26 and Friday 27 March.

Students have been introduced to SEQTA this week. Home learning is dependent on internet connectivity so please support your child log on to SEQTA from home. Some SEQTA Student Help Sheets are attached for your reference. Please contact our IT team ([Helpdesk@kilmore.vic.edu.au](mailto:Helpdesk@kilmore.vic.edu.au)) if your child is unable to log on. Students will be able to use the pupil-free day on 25 March as a trial Home Learning Day to ensure that online learning is effective. We would welcome your feedback on any challenges your child encountered so we can improve our service in the event that the school is closed.

We will move to online learning from Monday 30th March. Most staff and students will not attend school that week and will work from home. To assuage the real concerns of Year 12 students, their teachers will be available at school during the week to work with them on their Extended Essay, Theory of Knowledge Essay and Internal Assessment to meet school deadlines. A schedule for this support programme will be provided once confirmed. The Administration Office will remain open.

## Contact me

Thank you for contacting me directly with any coronavirus health-related concerns at [principal@kilmore.vic.edu.au](mailto:principal@kilmore.vic.edu.au). I will endeavour to reply to each email. Everyone in Australia is dealing with the unprecedented fallout from the COVID-19 outbreak. I understand parents may be anxious and we will do our utmost to protect the health of your child and minimise disruption to student learning.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end of the name.

Andrew Taylor  
Principal