

11 April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware, COVID-19 has drastically changed many things in the global community. Amongst all challenges this pandemic has posed, it has also reminded the entire humanity that we were taking very simple, basic things as granted. However, this pandemic has helped us become more grateful for our health, family and our usual social and professional engagements.

Like different segments of society, schools were immensely affected and had to change their way of operating. Since the beginning of this crisis, our school management has taken a very proactive approach, firstly maintaining the health and safety of our students and staff. We have remained committed to providing quality remote learning to our students since the PM's announcement on 22 March.

Late Thursday afternoon, all schools in Australia received another direction for Term 2 as follows:

“I am asking schools to retain a physical classroom environment for the children of parents who may not have a choice of keeping children at home. These might be the children of essential front line workers such as paramedics, nurses, doctors and police officers. Students should also not be refused physical classroom access based on their parent's employment.”
The Hon Dan Tehan, Minister for Education.

On this note, in Term 2 Amity College will continue to remain operational as it currently is, until we hear otherwise from government officials.

Any changes for Term 2?

The past few weeks have been a huge learning curve for our entire school community, including staff. We have been receiving ongoing feedback from our students and teachers to monitor our remote learning practices. We would also like to thank you for your recent feedback from the Family Check-in Survey conducted last week.

Based on this feedback, in Term 2 we will be seeing:

- for Primary and Junior High School:
 - continuity of the Seesaw app as the main remote learning platform.
 - less screen time for students, hence more variety of engaging activities.
 - less content coverage and more feedback.
 - less variety of subjects each day.
 - live greetings/explanations by teachers.
 - more social/emotional interaction amongst students and teachers via Zoom sessions.
 - clearer remote learning timetable.
 - the mixed delivery method in high school (Zoom + Seesaw).
- for Senior High School:
 - continuity of Zoom classes connected to Seesaw for the parent notifications.
 - modified timetable.
 - less variety of subjects each day.
- for Parents
 - targeted parent webinars.

In order for staff to better plan for Term 2, we have decided to have two days of staff development on Monday and Tuesday, 27-28 April. Therefore, remote learning for Term 2 will resume as of Wednesday, 29 April.

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Term 1 Interim Reports

Term 1 Student Reports will not be issued this term due to the postponement of all assessments. However, you can monitor your child's progress via COOLSIS or contact your child's teacher/s via email if you have any concerns.

Amity College Five Paths to Wellbeing



At a global level, wellbeing has become a hot topic in recent times, with more attention on it now during the COVID-19 pandemic. A focus on helping people build resilience and wellbeing will, in turn, strengthen families, schools, organisations and communities in which people achieve positive mental health and optimal functioning. Since Term 4 last year, our school has been working on a Positive Education Wellbeing Model, which is being developed in partnership with [APPLI Positive Psychology Institute](#).

It gives me great pleasure to launch our model to our school community on this occasion.

As our first project, please find the **Amity 5Paths2Wellbeing** worksheet for this holiday period [here](#).

Holiday Quality Family Time Pack

Our Pastoral Care, Counselling and Community Engagement Departments have collectively prepared this holiday pack for you to spend some quality time with the family during these pressing days. Within the pack, you will find many activity ideas, movie recommendations, useful websites, sport and exercise options and many more. This Holiday pack will be sent to you over this weekend. I am sure you will enjoy their extensive activity ideas.

The e-safety commission is hosting seminars for both primary and high school parents on e-safety, as part of their COVID-19 response. As children and teens are spending so much more time online now due to remote learning, e-safety is imperative.

More info and registration can be found through this website:

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars>

Your trust matters

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank my staff members for quickly adapting to this entirely new remote learning environment and you, our parents, for your ongoing trust in us and supporting your children in this new way of learning.

I wish all families a happy and safe holiday season.

Yours sincerely,



Deniz Erdogan

Executive Principal

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