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22 June 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Schools are operating full time, and many additional activities are now able to recommence. With updated health advice and changes to state and national restrictions, the Department of Education has provided guidelines allowing the majority of school-based activities to recommence from either this week or the start of Term 3. The following principles underpin these guidelines:

- schools continue to be safe and operations are in line with Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) and NSW Health guidelines
- existing infection control protocols at schools, and new health and safety measures put in place will help maintain the health and safety of students and staff
- all activities permitted at school are safe and appropriate in a living with COVID-19 environment

#### **SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

The following activities have resumed in line with all health and safety protocols:

- morning assemblies (limited to 15 minutes and no external visitors)
- choirs and performing arts extracurricular groups
- incursions/external providers delivering activities that support the curriculum; all visitors and external to school providers are required to adhere to relevant hygiene, distancing and safety protocols

Activities that can resume from the beginning of Term 3:

- all school sport and activities, including competitions aligned with current health advice
- inter-school student events and competitions (choirs, sport, debating, public speaking, performing arts etc)
- Special Religious Education (scripture) lessons

Non-essential adults (including parents/carers) and school-based activities that involve gatherings of adults are not permitted at this time. These include parent/community gatherings such as parent functions, working bees, fundraisers, school BBQs, parent information evenings, and on-site cultural events. These gatherings and the following activities will continue to be reviewed and assessed based on AHPPC and NSW Health advice and may be permitted at a later date:

- school camps
- parent attendance at assemblies and other school events
- parent volunteers – e.g. parent reading helpers

As a result, the current morning (*kiss and drop*) and afternoon pick up arrangements will remain in place to commence Term 3.

At this stage, we are hopeful that our Stage 3 camp will be able to go ahead and it remains scheduled for Week 9, Term 3 (September 14-16) and will cost \$300. While it would be disappointing for our students to miss out on this opportunity, we will follow health advice and comply with all Department of Education guidelines. More information regarding the Stage 3 camp will be provided at the beginning of Term 3.

Certain large arts and sports events have been cancelled or delayed because they require feeder activities and have long-lead time organisational arrangements. These include:

- State, zone and school athletics carnivals
- State, zone and school cross country carnivals
- Blacktown PSSA Winter competition
- Blacktown Festival of Performing Arts



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## **STUDENT REPORTS**

Parents/carers of all students are provided with a formal report on their child's learning twice a year. In Semester 1 2020, school reports will look different; each student will be provided a simplified written report that is easy for parents/carers to understand. Student reports will:

- describe student progress and achievement on the learning undertaken from home and school
- provide information about student attendance and commitment to learning
- use a three-point scale (working towards, achieved, working beyond) where valid assessment judgements can be made against syllabus outcomes, as opposed to the A-E grades
- not include an effort grade
- provide additional information including a goal or something that each child is working towards in the general comment
- sent home on the last day of school Term 2

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

It is important that as a school community we continue to be mindful of the health and safety of all. Whilst school students do not need to follow strict adult physical distancing guidelines, it is important that they continue to follow good hygiene practices like:

- regularly washing hands
- avoiding sharing drinks or food
- coughing or sneezing into their elbow, or a tissue which should be discarded immediately
- filling water bottles from bubblers rather than using the bubbler directly.

If your child is unwell or displays any sign of illness, they must stay home. NSW Health recommends that **anyone with respiratory symptoms or unexplained fever should be tested** for COVID-19. If your child has a COVID-19 test, please inform the school office and keep the child at home until you receive clearance/a negative result.

We sincerely thank our school community for the ongoing support and understanding.

Bert Lo Campo  
**Principal**

Shonah Gibson & Rosannagh Ryan  
**Deputy Principals**