

## COVID19 INFORMATION FOR PARENTS 3 (March 20 2020)

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As part of NT Christian Schools commitment to working in partnership with families, I am pleased to provide an update on how the NT Christian Schools leadership team are thinking about and responding to the challenges presented through the presence of the COVID-19 virus in the Australian community. This communication forms part of regular and ongoing communication with all families to ensure there is clarity, calmness and consistency across our school.

### **Review of all planned activities**

School leaders are constantly monitoring advice and assessing risks involved in undertaking planned school events. We are obviously keen to continue with events wherever we feel it is safe and healthy to do so, but more and more we believe that for the health and safety of your child, and others across the school community, it is prudent to cancel particular events. We are committed to giving families and students as much warning as possible but do continue to review situations right up to departure for the event.

### **Considerations for possible school or campus closures**

I want to reassure you that NT Christian Schools is prepared should the need eventuate for a possible school or campus closure.

#### Decision about a closure

A school or campus closure would occur if we were directed by an NT or Australian authority to do so. It is important to stress that NT Christian Schools operates as a system of schools, and due to the nature of our separate campuses, we may be in a position where one or more campuses may be required to close, while other campuses may remain open. We will be very clear with families about which campuses are required to close. If the College your child attends is not closed, it would be expected that in normal circumstances your child would be in attendance at school.

#### Communication of closure

It is likely that we will be given little notice about a closure so we will communicate any required closures through Compass, by email and via text message.

**Please ensure your contact details are all current as a matter of priority.**

#### Preparation for online learning

Should a school closure occur, teachers are prepared to continue to deliver learning through other means, including online learning. In order for this to be effective, it is important that students have anything required to ensure they can access materials and course content from a non-school location. This could mean anything from a particular text book to their laptop chargers. It is highly unlikely that anything left at school will be accessible once a campus is closed. Teachers will commence talking about this with students, and we would ask that you as families also have these conversations, so all students are as prepared as possible.

## **Use of social media**

There will be ample opportunity in coming days for the school and families to express real partnership in the way we think and communicate about these changing circumstances. There is already increased interest and discussion about how we all as a nation and a community are handling this situation. I would ask all families to join us in seeking to communicate in calm and consistent ways. One helpful way we can work together is to ensure that any questions or concerns are directed to the appropriate Head of School or Principal, rather than through social media. I am confident that all concerns or questions will be constructively addressed through direct communication with the school.

Thank you in anticipation for your supportive partnership with us as a school, for the sake and benefit of your children. We will continue to communicate regularly so you are informed in a timely manner.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact your school.

Kind regards,

Phoebe van Bentum

CEO