

27 March 2020

Dear Families and Caregivers

RE: Online Learning and Student Free Days

In light of recent government announcements for schools and increasing student absenteeism at this time, I write to update you on changes to the learning program at Norwood Morialta High School.

Yesterday the Minister for Education announced four additional **student free days from Monday April 6 to Thursday 9 April, Week 11** to support teachers in readiness for quality online program delivery. These days will be in addition to our previously scheduled **student free day on Friday 3 April**. NMHS students will now finish their school term on Thursday 2 April and will be dismissed at 3:10pm. The school will continue to provide care for students, who are not able to continue their learning at home on the student free days, such as children of our essential workers. These students will need to report to the cafeteria on the Senior Campus each day, as the Middle Campus will be closed.

Due to these student free days and social distancing practices the school has made the following arrangements:

- Postponing Year 8 Immunisations
- Providing Student Teacher Parent discussions for senior campus students by phone or email in Weeks 10 and 11.
NB Teachers will prioritise Sage 1 & 2 students who achieved a C-, D or E grade(s) and phone or email Parent / Caregivers.

Further to this I wish to advise that Norwood Morialta High School will be introducing a new block timetable for all students and staff to support flexible online learning. This will mean that students will have three blocks of subjects each day and only two sessions per subject in a week. The new timetable will be available to all students and parents via Daymap on Saturday 28 March.

To support all of our students, whether they are in the classroom or working from home, our school will also be trialling online learning from Monday 30 March with the new timetable structure in place. This will be a valuable opportunity for our teachers to trial the new models of learning that they have been preparing and then using the Student Free Days to further review and improve these practices.

I wish to remind families that the school has already published Online Learning Guidelines for students on our website. This document will be further revised to incorporate feedback from the online trial and additional information about responsible student behaviour, procedures for absences, wellbeing support and protocols for video-conferencing. These updated guidelines will be shared with our community next week.

As we move to this new mode of learning we need to understand that online learning may look different for everyone. Rather than sitting in a physical classroom, students will now participate in a virtual classroom and connect with their teacher and classmates through different online platforms. Teachers will use a variety of online tools for different subjects and classes, however the message remains consistent: *Students will continue to remain focused, engaged and supported in their learning to be successful – just in a different way.*



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**ENRICHING
HUMANITY**

During the online learning trial it is expected that our students will engage in a learning program for each subject. Students will be required to:

- Establish a routine that includes getting ready for a day of learning and checking Daymap each morning
- Follow their timetable during the day. They will need to engage in each subject twice a week and they will be directly contacted by their teacher at least once a week. This contact may vary and involve video conferencing, class posts, google chats, shared collaborative documents or Daymap/ Email messaging
- Check Daymap for all lesson instructions and resources, including links to other websites and platforms
- Demonstrate responsible behaviour as an online community member
- Upload assessment tasks on Daymap or One Drive (for larger files), as per the teacher's instructions.
- Contact their teacher or Learning Community Leader via Daymap messaging if they need support.

I am sure the home-based learning experience looks very different in the eyes of our students. With this in mind we understand the reality and challenge of students connecting with their learning for every scheduled minute of their timetable every day at home. We ask that parents support middle campus students to personalise their timetable so that they cover the specific subject requirements for that day (in any order) and can actively participate in all scheduled video conference sessions, as communicated by the teacher through Daymap.

Parents of middle campus students may also like to consider how they can combine a school-based virtual program with some additional home learning experiences. I have already heard some wonderful stories of parents supporting and connecting life skills to the learning, such as changing a bike tyre (linked to technology), planning the next family holiday (Mathematics and Budgeting), going on a virtual field trip (in Humanities), reading together and viewing Ted talks, just to name a few. This is truly the time to be connected with each other, to reassure each other and to learn together.

Please be assured that continuity of learning of all children, whether they be at school or home, and the wellbeing of our children and staff will be our highest priority.

We will continue to keep you informed of any additional changes or updates to the learning at Norwood Morialta High School and encourage you to contact us should you have any queries with regard to the learning or wellbeing of your child in this new online learning environment.

Yours sincerely



Jacqui van Ruiten
Principal

