

## Canberra College Community Message

### Assessment Information - Responding to COVID-19

#### Dear Students, Parents and Carers

I'm writing to provide you with the latest information about COVID-19 and ACT public schools.

I'd like to begin by acknowledging the strength of our school community our teachers and school staff who have been keeping our children and young people calm, happy and learning during these unprecedented events. I'd also like to acknowledge this has been a challenging period for our families and students, and I thank you for your continued support.

#### Pupil free days from 24 March 2020 to school holidays

The ACT Minister for Education announced that from Tuesday 24 March 2020 all ACT public schools will go pupil free until the school holidays, due to begin on Friday 10 April, 2020.

From today, Canberra College is pupil free. Teachers will remain on duty until Thursday 9th of April to prepare alternative methods of delivering education, in the event students cannot attend school for an extended period and we transition to an online program of learning.

We ask that you give them some space to do this work, as it will position us to best support the continuity of each student's education. For this reason, students are advised not to attend school during the pupil free period. We ask that they stay at home and minimise in-person contact with friends, avoiding even small gatherings and public places as much as possible. Young people may be more resilient to Corona Virus than others, but can still get sick, carry and transmit the disease which may cause severe illness or death for more vulnerable people in our society.

School holidays will commence as scheduled on Friday 10 April and I will provide updates before the start of Term 2.

#### Assessment Update

The Q1 teaching program ended yesterday. All assessments scheduled for this week and next are extended to week 1, term 2 at this stage.

Q2 units will start on Tuesday 28 April. There will be some adjustments to unit outlines, and to the term 2 schedule.

Canberra College Online will commence on Tuesday 28th of April.

#### If you work in essential services

The ACT Education Directorate will provide options for school-age children whose parents and carers need to continue delivering essential services for Canberra during this period, including teachers and health services. Further information on this will be provided by the Education Directorate as soon as possible.

#### Home support for student learning

It is important at this time that we can provide as much continuity as possible for our students' education, no matter what the circumstances. Relationships are key to education and we want to support our students' connections to their current teachers wherever possible.

The following access to Google Classroom will apply for the Student Free period:

- Students can access existing Google Class pages and content,
- Where applicable, teachers will provide suggestions for supplementary, meaningful independent learning that can be undertaken remotely; and
- During the pupil free period, teachers will only be able to provide students with limited support, primarily in the form of responses to Google Classroom messages.

Today the Education Directorate has released a resource library to support parents and children with home learning. The link is: <https://www.education.act.gov.au/schooling/learning-resource-library>

ACT public schools are among the best in the country and we are absolutely committed to ensuring your child continues to receive a high-quality education during this time. The wellbeing of our students and their families is also important. The ACT Education Directorate has compiled a range of useful resources on its [website](#).

As you can appreciate, this is a fast-moving situation and we will do our best to keep you informed. Our school website has a link to further information from the ACT Education Directorate, which is updated regularly with the latest advice. I will also write to you if further decisions are made that impact our school.

Please also regularly check the latest advice from ACT Health, available from [www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au) and on social media.

If you need urgent advice or assistance you can ring our family helpline 6142 0383 between 9.00 am and 3:00pm or email [canberrac.info@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:canberrac.info@ed.act.edu.au).

Please stay in touch and look after each other remotely. Remember to behave responsibly and take this opportunity to develop yourself. Read, cook, practice a skill, be creative, learn an instrument, learn a language. Be active and use your brain. We will be putting in place mechanisms to stay in touch with you, and you will hear from us via Google Classrooms.

Take care.

**Michael Battenally**

**Principal**

Canberra College

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