



Catholic Schools Office Diocese of Broken Bay

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23 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am very conscious of how recent announcements by the Prime Minister last night and today by the Premier are likely to contribute to uncertainty among many parents about whether or not students should be attending school. Some parents have already made their decision. This letter is to reassure you that our system of schools has a plan that will provide a transition to quality Home-Based Learning and that there are some basic protocols, routines and steps that parents can commence to ready their child for this mode of learning, should they decide to keep their child at home. Equally, our schools are open, and according to the senior health advisors in the country, safe, with healthy hygiene protocols and new deliveries this week of sanitary hand wash, and where face to face teaching is occurring.

We are supportive and respectful of parent decisions about whether to continue your child's learning either at school or at home.

I have shared today with principals a website on Home-Based Learning. It will be a valuable resource for principals and teachers as they transition to new methods of engaging with students. An accompanying website *Student Wellbeing Advice for Parents and Carers: Home Based-Learning* will provide a range of resources including suggested responsibilities for parents and students, establishing routines and expectations, communication with your child around their learning, helping students to set learning targets and goals, suggestions for achieving a balance of activities, managing screen time, and wellbeing resources. The website should be available this week and I will provide a link for you in my next letter. If your child is at home you may find this useful in relation to preparation for Home-Based Learning.

I understand that these are difficult times and re-confirm the great value we place on our ongoing partnerships with you in the education of your child in our Catholic schools.

If you are facing financial difficulties and loss of income due to COVID-19 please have a confidential conversation with your principal to seek support immediately. I will have more information about financial matters in my next letter to you all.

With my best wishes and prayers.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Tony Bracken
Acting Director of Schools

A ministry of leadership and service to Catholic Schools