

## **COVID19 Update for Dickson College 1 May 2020**

Dear Students and families,

To state the obvious, it has been a unique start to the school term. Despite difficult circumstances my teachers have reported to me that students are most appreciative of the opportunity to reengage with their learning and commence the second half of the semester.

### **Online\Remote Learning Timetable**

We have had a few questions about what students should be doing on Wednesday's with our Online\Remote Learning timetable. On Wednesday's there are no scheduled classes or activities, rather time has been set aside so that students can work independently on their assignments and coursework without interruption. So, on Wednesday's students should be:

- catching up on coursework
- completing assignments and other assessment

Our teachers may use this time to follow up with individual students who have raised questions or need additional assistance.

Students should use this time prudently remembering that completion of course work (e.g. online activities) will count towards their participation in each unit.

### **Positive Behaviours online**

Our teachers are reporting positive engagement by students in the online learning spaces provided by the Google platform. One of these has been the use of Google Meet\Hangouts (aka video conference) to bring the classes together for instruction and discussion. This has proven a great way to connect teachers with students and students with each other while in social isolation. Teachers have been great at establishing expectations in the online environment and I have seen some great examples. Here are a few guidelines I think are universal for College age students that are using Google Meet\Hangouts from home:

- you are appropriately dressed and in an appropriate learning area. Minimise personal items in the background.
- let siblings and family know that you're 'in-class'
- your phone is off or on silent and out of reach (if it's not the device you're using)
- keep your microphone muted unless speaking
- turn on your camera when speaking, at least. We want to see you.
- take turns and speak - aim to make it easier for others to contribute
- politely interrupt or use the chat feature to raise questions
- take risks in pursuit of learning – mistakes are a good sign
- be brave and share your thoughts!

## **Mid Semester Reports and Parent teacher communications**

Mid Semester Reports capturing formative assessment and feedback to students will be sent to students and families after 2pm today Friday 1 May. Information on how teachers will contact families will be distributed with these reports.

**Please note** that Dickson College is trialing a new way of reporting this semester and this is the first time we have produced Mid Semester reports this way. Needless to say, it has been difficult for us especially under the COVID-19 restrictions and we are aware there may be some formatting issues with this first batch of reports, developed under the new system. That said the content of the report should be easily understood and if there are specific issues with reports please contact the College.

## **Student Wellbeing**

If students are requiring additional support to engage with their studies, they should contact our Student Wellbeing area. Student Wellbeing can put students in touch with our school psychologist, the relevant Year Coordinator or our Careers and Transitions team.

The College has already commenced procedures to flag wellbeing issues and issues with engagement online. Next week the College will start following up with students that are struggling to engage online or haven't engaged yet.

## **Safe and Supervised School Sites**

In term 2 most public school students will undertake their learning from home. Safe and Supervised Sites are available to students who, for any reason, are unable to do their remote learning from home. To register attendance at a safe and supervised school site register at : <https://bit.ly/actsupervisedcare> or call 6205 8495. Site registrations is designated by feeder schools.

Please stay up to date with the latest information on COVID-19 by visiting the , [ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies \(BSSS\)](#) , and the [Dickson College](#) websites and [Dickson College Facebook page](#).

Take care and stay connected.

Regards

Craig Edwards  
Principal