

14th April, 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Thank you for your support across Term 1. In difficult circumstances, it was wonderful to see our community respond to the challenges of this season, and embrace our new PCC@Home approach. I write now to provide information on recent Government announcements and to share some information regarding Term 2.

1. Outside School Hours Care (& Early Childhood Education)

- a. The Prime Minister has announced a Government initiative to support the continued availability of early childhood education and care. Outside School Hours Care and Vacation Care will be free to parents, under the new scheme.
 - i. Further information can be found [here](#).
- b. The Parklands Christian College Outside School Hours Care program and the Vacation Care program are operating as normal.

2. Term 2 at Parklands Christian College

- a. Subject to any change in advice from Government authorities, parents can expect the continuation of using **PCC@Home until Friday 22nd May** (Weeks 1-5).
- b. Parents who are essential workers will decide whether their children will be learning from home or attending the college (on-site) where they will engage in learning via PCC@Home while supervised by College staff.
 - i. We would greatly appreciate it if parents who are intending to send their children to school could email studentservices@parklands.qld.edu.au to register their children for on-site learning in Weeks 1-5.

Following our PCC@Home trial in the last week of Term 1, we have modified our [Parklands Christian College web page](#) to better accommodate access to PCC@Home. Our Primary School Teachers have developed Year Level Google Sites which can be accessed via the PCC@Home link on our website, giving students and their parents' one easy location to access:

- a. [Schedules & Learning Resources](#)
- b. [Home Communications](#)
- c. [Student Support](#)

Our Secondary School Teachers continue to use the existing online platform of a Google Site for every subject, and have worked on upgrading these to further facilitate PCC@Home.

Term 2 Commencement: Monday 20th April will be our first day of Term 2.

1. **Primary School** – Collection Day: On Monday 20th April (9:30am – 12noon), parents can collect Primary School resource packs which have been lovingly assembled by our staff. Year Level Collection Points will be set up in the Primary School Car Park where a contactless delivery of packs will take place.

- a. **Please bring your children to collect their packs so we can say hello** (and be a little silly).
 - b. **Collection Time:** Mon 20th April – 9:30am 12noon
 - c. **Primary School Teaching & Learning will commence Tuesday 21st April.** Children of essential workers are welcome on site from Monday 20th April from 8:30am.
 - d. **A PCC@Home Handbook** will be available to help parents and students login and access PCC@Home.
2. **Secondary School** – Secondary classes will start on Monday 20th April at 11:30am. Delaying classes on this day will give us the opportunity to gauge the number of students who will be on site, and help in the Primary School collection day process.
- a. Children of essential workers are welcome on site from Monday 20th April from 8:30am. They are to meet at the Collaboration Centre.

PCC@Home – The Parklands Approach to Online Learning

As schools across the nation have grappled with the need to rapidly transition to online learning, it has been fascinating to see the different approaches that schools have adopted. Some approaches are easily established but not necessarily effective. Some approaches may be difficult to sustain, especially if a proportion of teachers become ill, households experience network connection problems or families encounter circumstances that require flexibility in learning times.

Whilst Parklands Christian College is well positioned to offer online learning, our first priority has been to establish a reliable and effective College-wide process, mindful of the potential impact that COVID19 could have on schools. Going forward, we commit to providing students with advance notice of the work to be covered each week. This will primarily be supported through PCC@Home platform which uses **Google Sites** and **Google Classroom**.

Going Online

In an online environment, it is advantageous for students to spend parts of their day working offline, and completing set work. This is essentially a blended approach to online learning where students work on and off line during the school day. Likewise, it is beneficial for teachers to spend time developing productive online resources, checking student engagement, analysing students' completed work, following up with individuals and ensuring the set activities actually result in student understanding.

If you need assistance with your child's online learning journey, please do not hesitate to contact us. Learning from home will take some adjustment for us all, and so it is important to access the help you need. Parents may contact teachers via email, and should avoid ringing the College directly where possible. It may take a while for staff to get back to you in this busy season.

Year 12 News

We are all mindful of the disruptions that our Year 12 students are experiencing in their important and highly anticipated graduating year. In relation to the Year 12 learning and assessment program, the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) has announced their decision to assist Year 12 students by removing one of the four major assessment pieces in each subject area.

The College's secondary team is currently analysing the implications of this decision for the Year 12 students at Parklands Christian College and will be providing further information and guidance for Year 12 families in Term 2.

Year 12 Formal

What would Year 12 be without all the glamour and fellowship of the Year 12 Formal? As the College considers and reconsiders the scheduling of many 2020 events, Year 12 students and their families can be assured that the Year 12 Formal remains a priority. We look forward to seeing our graduating class celebrating their journey together at the end of the year. If there are any changes to our Formal plans, we will contact parents and students immediately.

School Fees

Each year, the Parklands Christian College Board considers the costs of operating the College and sets the school fees accordingly. You may not be aware that the major cost area of operating an independent school such as ours is staff salaries, which amount to approximately 75% of our overall budget. The usual school fees for Term 2 will apply, as we continue to provide an excellent education program through our online formats, along with wellbeing and pastoral care. The College will continue to monitor COVID-19 developments and the associated impact on the College and its families and will continue to consider the need to review the fees to be applied in the future. Please be assured that the College understands some families may be experiencing genuine financial hardship due to a COVID-19 related change of circumstances.

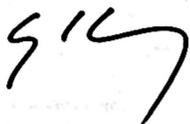
We intend to assist these families in ways that may include tailored repayment plans and temporary suspension or reduction of payments. We do not want to lose any family because of circumstances or great hardship which make it impossible to pay school fees. Obviously, the more that Parklands families are able to pay their school fees as normal, the greater the capacity of the College to help other Parklands families in genuine need of assistance. We encourage families experiencing financial hardship to contact the College Administration. The College will arrange, on a case by case basis, a confidential discussion to determine how we are best able to assist families through this challenging season. We hope to see all families continue as part of the Parklands Christian College community.

Capital Works

Given the uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 situation, the College will, until further notice, pause any planned capital works expenditure. Regrettably, this means that our plans toward developing a new Primary School Precinct have been paused. We are also pausing many smaller projects until such time as we feel our community is stable and well cared for.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Yours sincerely,



Gary Cully
Principal



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Primary School Collection Day

Monday 20th April, 2020

Collection Time:

9.30am – 12:00 noon

If you can't collect your child's pack between 9:30am – 12noon, don't worry. Come in when you can and collect them from your child's classroom.

Location:

Primary School Car Park Drop Off Zone
(follow the signs)

If it's raining, the collection point will be the Baskerville Sports Centre.