



18 March 2020

Dear Boarding Parents

As everyone is acutely aware, we have been carefully monitoring the COVID-19 outbreak and our response is guided by authorities including the World Health Organisation, the Australian Government and Australia's Chief Medical Officer.

This morning, Prime Minister Scott Morrison encouraged parents to leave their children in school and recommended that schools do not close down. However later in the day the following directive was released from the government in relation to boarding schools.

Boarding Schools

The National Cabinet noted that boarding schools are "at high risk of transmission" and encouraged boarding schools and parents to "consider the risks versus the benefits of a student remaining in boarding school."

We have decided to continue running our Boarding School as normal, as we believe with numbers currently sitting under 100 and our strict approach hygiene, cleaning and managing the girls' activities outside the School, we can minimise their exposure. However as parents you have the choice to take your daughter home, depending on your personal circumstances.

As you can appreciate, our teachers are under immense pressure to ensure they continue to deliver their lesson plans, building their skills in online teaching and other duties. While we appreciate that some parents would prefer to take their daughter home, until the School becomes non-operational, we cannot provide full online lessons. Those students who choose to study at home are encouraged to keep up via Microsoft Teams.

If you would like to collect your daughter from Boarding, can you please either contact myself or provide a Reach Leave Request so we have details of your collection plans.

The School has offered to provide a laptop to our girls who do not have a device at home. If your daughter is returning home, we can arrange for this to be issued to your daughter over the next 48 hours.

All scripted medication and scripts will be sent home with the girls.

If you are comfortable for your daughter to remain in Boarding for the foreseeable future, we will run the following boarding activities program over this coming weekend.

Friday 20 March

- 6:30pm All Years Games on the Oval run by Years 11 & 12 – Swim in the Pool to finish

Saturday 21 March

- 10:00am All Years Jungle Body Konga (Assembly Hall – Rita F.I.T. Training)
- 2:00pm Years 7, 8 & 9 Packet Cake Bake Off – Food & Technology Rooms
- 7:00pm Movies in areas

Sunday 22 March

- 10:00am Beach Swim – City Beach

We have a full appreciation for everyone navigating this challenging set of circumstances that are constantly evolving. We would like to reassure everyone that we are talking with the girls constantly to ensure everyone is comfortable with the decisions that are being made to keep our girls healthy and happy.

Please contact either myself or Razina Dowson on Boarding.assistant@sthildas.wa.edu.au if you have further questions.

Warmest regards



Rachel Stenslunde

Dean of Boarding