



April 1st 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now well into our second week in this new form of educational delivery.

Remote Learning:

On balance our roll out of remote learning has been very successful, and your conduit of information for details of online learning is from the Deputy Heads of School in both primary and high school, Liz Nevieve and Dani Finch, who along with all our teachers, have been doing a remarkable job in very difficult circumstances.

You as parents have been doing a remarkable job in difficult circumstances, and we are deeply appreciative of the many messages of support and feedback that are helping our teachers refine and develop their online delivery.

Our work has been informed by the experience of other schools, other systems, and indeed other countries which have been working in remote delivery mode for longer than NSW schools. The evidence is that over time the methods and materials of remote delivery will change and so I urge you to follow the communications from Liz and Dani and the teachers. If you have not done so already, please complete the Glennaeon Remote Learning Agreement.

The Future

Teachers are most of all missing the physical presence of our students and the daily rituals of meeting and greeting, classroom interactions, and of course the always uplifting sound of children's laughter. As I put in my Newsletter piece this week, we're all grieving for what has passed and trying to find meaning in an uncertain future, while hoping for a return to normal.

This return will not be for some months. As announced on Friday by the National Cabinet, schools will remain in this restricted mode after the Easter term break, and there is no indication of how long this phase will last. Our task over these future months will be maintaining the wellbeing of all our students and families in the face of social distancing and physical isolation. Healthy social relationships are fundamental to wellbeing and also important for physical health. Your child's teachers will be working very hard to maintain and enhance their relationships with all the students in their classes.

School Chaplain Lisa Devine is available for a supporting conversation for any parent or child who would like to reach out to her. Please feel free to contact her on 0401 367 808.

In order to maintain a good and healthy lifestyle in these screen-dominated times, our advice to all our students, and indeed to all of us as teachers and parents as well, is to balance time spent on screen with creating art, making music, and pondering beauty in all its forms in nature. A higher perspective can help us find “the still point in the turning world” around us.

Rudolf Steiner’s social motto, spoken at the beginning of every Glenaeon Parents Association meeting, suggests a way to work:

The healthy social life is found, when in the mirror of each human soul, the whole community finds its reflection, and when, in the community, the virtue of each one is living.

If each of us can be a mirror reflecting and holding our community, then the virtues that we each bring will live even more strongly in the school, and we will look forward to surmounting this most divisive human challenge together.

Yours,

Andrew Hill
Head of School