



**MELBOURNE
RUDOLF STEINER
SCHOOL**

18th March 2020

Dear School Community Members,

The College of Teachers has decided that in the best interests of our students, parents, staff and school community that we close our school campus. We will close on **Friday 20th March (full day)** and at this stage are aiming to open again on Tuesday 14th April.

Whilst at this stage we have no reported cases of COVID-19 in the school, the worsening situation is seeing large parts of industry, entertainment and education modify their operations as the government advises against gatherings of more than 100 persons, and for individuals to practise 'distancing behaviour' in their attempt to slow down the transmission of the virus. Whilst the government is suggesting schools ought, where possible, to continue their normal school day, there is growing evidence that large numbers of students gathering together may not be able to observe the distancing required to avoid transmission.

We understand that there is a lot of disagreement and confusion regarding the best approach to take in this situation and have witnessed the growing concern within our community as evidenced by the absence of 100 students yesterday. There is a distinct sense of unease in the school at the moment, with concerns for the students, at risk staff, and the whole community. Therefore, this decision, although not taken lightly was, for us, an appropriate one.

Students/Parents will be advised of any work requirements by their subject teachers and many senior teachers and students are transitioning to online platforms such as "Google Classroom". All teachers next week will be working towards building a suitable curriculum which will be tailored towards individual classes.

In the event of a more extended closure next term the students from class 9 upwards will have the opportunity to engage in an online learning program and we envisage a combination of approaches for the younger classes. All teachers will be working on this over the coming weeks, and parents will be informed by email before the planned start of Term Two.

While we understand that this decision will cause inconvenience to families, we have been heartened by the support of our school community during this challenging time.

We thank you again for your patience and understanding.

Kind Regards
Jo Stirrat
College Chair

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