

Communities@Work

26 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of Galilee School community,

COVID-19 is impacting our lives, our school, our community, our country, and the World in ways that we would have thought unimaginable just four months ago. Our focus at Galilee School is to support our students, support you and to keep our staff and community as safe as possible. We also are striving to keep learning and connection available and accessible to all.

Thank you for your support of the school during these four pupil free days. These days have allowed us to plan and prepare for a shift to a different teaching and support model for Galilee School that we will be trialling and testing over the next two weeks.

The key principles that we have adopted in this plan and design phase are:

1. Enabling teaching and learning to occur from anywhere to anywhere
2. Enabling youth worker support to be provided from anywhere to anywhere
3. Maintaining our individual approach to teaching, learning and support
4. Focusing on the safety and welfare of staff, young people and their families/significant others
5. That our approach is flexible and able to respond to the changing situation. This is of particular relevance to any further social isolation measures introduced by either the ACT Government or Federal Government.

Week 8 has seen all staff involved in the development, testing and trialling of our new delivery and support models.

The plan for the remainder of Term 1 looks like the following:

- A. For students that are able to stay home and have access to technology
 - a. Attached is a one page summary of our teaching and learning approach mainly utilising Google Apps For Education such as Google Classrooms, Google Hangouts and other platforms.
 - b. Attached is a one page summary of our Youth Worker support strategy.
 - c. Next week (Week 9) we will schedule opportunities for each young person to attend school and receive training in how to access these services.
 - d. Each young person's Individual Learning Plan (ILP) will be reviewed in response to the new models of delivery and support so as to best support each young person and accommodate their particular learning and support needs.
 - e. Consultation will occur with the Youth Work Team to ensure student support has also been adjusted for this new model.

- B. For students that are able to stay home and DO NOT have access to technology
 - a. Attached is a one page summary of our teaching and learning approach.
 - b. Attached is a one page summary of our Youth Worker support strategy.

- c. 'Learning packets' will be delivered to each young person in hard copy at the start of each week. Strategies will be put in place (in consultation with each family) to have these returned to the school.
- d. Next week (Week 9) we will schedule opportunities for each young person to attend school so that each young person's Individual Learning Plan (ILP) can be reviewed in response to the new models of delivery and support so as to best support each young person and accommodate their particular learning and support needs.
- e. Consultation will occur with the Youth Work Team to ensure student support has also been adjusted for this new model.
- f. We are also exploring other ways of being able to support these students.

C. For students that are not able to stay home and need to attend school

- a. Before a decision around a young person attending school is made each family is asked to please discuss their circumstances with our Head of Student Support.
- b. Attached is a one page summary of our teaching and learning approach mainly utilising Google Apps For Education such as Google Classrooms, Google Hangouts and other platforms. These approaches will also be the ones used for young people attending school.
- c. Attached is a one page summary of our Youth Worker support strategy.
- d. Social distancing protocols will be applied to ensure that the recommendations around 1.5 metre personal space can be maintained for young people and staff.
- e. Due to the difficulty that the school has had in purchasing groceries (i.e. no delivery service and strict quantity limits), the school is only able to supply very limited food choices for young people and these cannot be guaranteed.
- f. Each young person's Individual Learning Plan (ILP) will be reviewed in response to the new models of delivery and support so as to best support each young person and accommodate their particular learning and support needs.
- g. Due to the challenges associated with maintaining social distancing, the school is unable to provide regular school bus transport during this time of adjustment. If this presents a significant issue for you please discuss this with us so that alternative approaches can be explored.
- h. Students and visitors to the school will be required to have their temperature taken every day and any young person (or visitor) with a temperature above 37.5 degrees will be asked to return home. Please note, Galilee School staff will also be having their temperature taken.

For all families, new pages have been established on our school website <https://www.commsatwork.org/services/community/galilee-school/> to provide access to communications, resources and support during this time.

We will be setting up these approaches next week (Week 9) and then continuing to trial them in Week 10. We are not committing to any particular approach for Term 2 at this stage given the rapidly changing environment that we are all in. We would anticipate however that these

changed circumstances are likely to be with us for some time and so we would encourage you to think and plan accordingly.

Our current arrangements for student free days stay in place until advised otherwise.

On Monday and Tuesday (30 and 31 March) staff will be in contact with each young person and their families/supports to arrange a time for them to attend school (either Wednesday, Thursday or Friday of that same week) and engage in the necessary training and ILP reviews as above. Parents and carers are also encouraged to attend these sessions so that we can review ILPs, support strategies, and so that you can gain an understanding of the new platforms that are being used. We are prepared to look at appointment times outside of normal school hours if that provides additional flexibility. We feel that parent/carer consultation will play a critical role in this process, so if you are unable to attend with your young person we will also be arranging a time for a phone conversation in support of this.

We greatly appreciate your feedback. Your response to our first online parent survey was very strong and gave us a good understanding of where things stand at present. Your ongoing communication and feedback are also requested so that we can adjust and adapt in response to what is working and what needs to change.

These are new experiences for us all. This is not the way any of us saw 2020 operating. We are doing our best with the resources that we have. Please provide your feedback or questions as we implement these new processes and learn together.

If you are able to, and if you are yet to do so, please connect with the school via our *School Stream* App.

Regular updates will be provided via text message and via *School Stream*.

We will get through this. How long that takes we do not know. We are however seeking to do whatever it takes to continue to keep our community safe, engaged and supported.

Yours sincerely

Tim McNevin
Principal

Lisa Hivers
Head of Teaching and
Learning

Joel Artup
Head of Student Support