



23 March 2020

Coronavirus Update 23 March 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Assalamu Alaykum WRWB,

The School continues to follow Government and Health Department guidelines. The NSW Premier, Ms Gladys Berejiklian, said yesterday that schools will remain open, but **the preferred position is that students do not come to school unless parents have no other choice**. She said that “there will be only one mode of delivery of the curriculum which will be through an ONLINE approach”. We will refer to it as ‘remote learning’.

Remote Learning

Remote learning enables students to continue their education when off campus. Remote learning is designed to support student learning. It cannot replicate the usual learning experience when the School operates as normal.

Teachers will prepare materials and email them to parents and students for student completion. These materials will include students completing assigned work from textbooks, worksheet and research assignments. Materials may also be supported by online learning platforms and students will be directed to these as well as directions to resources on YouTube (such as TED-X talks) and websites, such as Khan Academy, Reading Eggs, Mathletics and Education Perfect.

Our remote learning plans will evolve as we receive more information and advice from Education and Health Authorities. Students will receive learning materials in various formats.

- Students in Kindergarten to Year 6 will be sent work through their parent’s email. This work should be completed. Parents are asked to save this material and await instructions for the return of work. Please DO NOT return the work to class teachers or to by replying to the email you were sent. Advice will be sent in due course about how to return work to the School for marking and feedback.
- For students in Years 7 to 10, work will be sent to your child directly to their MFIS email account. Students should begin working through these materials. They should save these materials and await instructions for the return of work. Students are NOT to return to work until they receive specific instructions on how to return work.
- Assessment tasks for Years 7 to 10 that were scheduled over the remainder of Term 1 are postponed. Some tasks are due to be handed in this week and, if your child is at School, they can continue to submit these tasks. If your child is working at home, instructions will be sent as to how to submit the task. No student will be penalised for late submission.
- For students in Years 11 and 12, teachers and students will use a combination of email and Microsoft Teams to send work home. Students are trained in these systems and will be able to return work through it. Students will have some access from time to time to digital online face to face learning through the Microsoft Teams. Where this is used, students will receive advice and invitations to the lessons. There will need to be some adjustment to assessment tasks that are scheduled for remainder of this term. Your child will be informed of these changes and we will keep your child informed.

Please be mindful that the School remains open and students who attend School will complete the work that is sent home via remote learning. If your child is working from home, it is important that they continue to maintain healthy habits. This includes limiting screen time, continuing to read and participating in outdoor activities where feasible.

The School is monitoring advice from NESA regarding the HSC and will advise parents and students as information becomes available.

It is important that parents and secondary students regularly check their emails. This will be a major means of communication between home and school.

Email Access

A detailed instruction sheet **is attached** for students to login to their School emails and Microsoft Teams. Additional support can also be provided:

- IT Support: Email itsupport@mfis.nsw.edu.au with your name, phone number and description of the problem)
- FAQ – available on <https://www.mfis.nsw.edu.au/it-faqs> the School website

Pastoral Care Support for Students: Head Space Support

As always, the health and well-being of each member of our community is a priority. The School continues to monitor advice from Government and health authorities regarding schools and COVID-19. The School deeply appreciates the commitment and support of staff, students and parents in helping to manage the situation in a calm and measured way.

We acknowledge that each student will respond differently to the situation, including feelings of uncertainty and anxiety. To this end, The Heads of Wellbeing, Ms Kbbbar, Mr Khoder, in conjunction with Mr Ahmed, Deputy Principal (Pastoral Care) are developing a special session for Homeroom to address possible student concerns about COVID-19.

We have placed on our School website the following link that provides information on how to support your child:

https://headspace.org.au/young-people/how-to-cope-with-stress-related-to-covid-19/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=boostedpost&utm_campaign=march

If you are at all concerned for your child's emotional well-being, please contact the Deputy Head of Campus and the Counselling Service offered at each campus.

Attached is a fact sheet from our School Counsellors which contains information for families around supporting their children with Covid-19 anxiety.

We are definitely living in an unprecedented and extraordinary times. We all are concerned for the health, safety and wellbeing of our students, staff and parents.

I thank you for your understanding, support and cooperation during these challenging times.

Kind regards



Mr Bruce Rixon
Principal