



Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta

GBW:vt

1 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of the first week of the new term, I am writing to remind you that we are here to help. I have so much respect and admiration for the way families have supported student learning and wellbeing in these challenging times.

It seems hardly any time since the first of the social restrictions were put in place that meant schools needed to reimagine how they could deliver learning to their students. Social distancing, learning and teaching offsite, new ways to communicate and other major changes to work and life have had an impact on us all.

Schools are keeping their communities updated about student learning and the gradual return to the classroom. I appreciate that things are changing all the time, which means we need to adjust and rethink what we are doing so that we are meeting the needs of our students.

Our young people have had to manage big changes to their lives in the past months. They're missing their mates, their teachers and their routines, so it's important to mention here that if you're concerned about your child's wellbeing, your school has the expertise to support you, including through professional counselling.

Particular thanks to the many families who have reached out for assistance due to the financial strain they are experiencing as a result of COVID-19. I understand that it's not always easy to speak up about pressures like these. You can find information about what fee support is available [here](#).

You can also talk to your school if your family doesn't have the technology or internet access you need at home so ensure learning can continue. Many schools have computers that they can loan to families, and there are also some options to support families with connectivity.

Together, we have responded with care, imagination and great heart to the significant challenges placed before us by COVID-19. Even in this rapidly changing environment, the health and safety of our students and staff will remain our number one priority.

Thanks for working with me in these extraordinary times, and always.

Yours sincerely

Greg Whitby AM KSG
Executive Director
Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta

LEARNING FOR TODAY'S WORLD