



Emmanuel Christian Community School

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Dear Parents/Guardians and Families,

Thank you for all your kind words of support and encouragement, as we have had to change our routines and schedules at Emmanuel, in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Teachers, Assistants and Leaders at Emmanuel have been working very hard over the last few weeks to prepare curriculum material and At-Home Learning lessons to support students in the first few weeks of Term 2, in case self-isolation conditions are still in place for the beginning of Term 2. Teachers have also maintained regular contact with their students in this new At-Home Learning environment using; MS Teams, SEQTA Forums, Direct Messaging, email, and other forums, like Story Park and Seesaw for the younger children. Teachers have been able to be contacted during school hours by parents and students and they have been answering many questions, as they help deliver their learning programs.

I remind you that Emmanuel will continue to plan for an At-Home Learning Program until the end of Week 2 in Term 2, unless new conditions are imposed by the Government. We will confirm the arrangements for later in Term 2 as the situation becomes clearer.

It is a very unusual time and I know the Teachers would very much prefer to have your children in the classrooms, so they can see their smiling faces, and be able to talk to them personally.

As much as we are able, we are encouraging families to establish a daily routine for At-Home Learning. Your children by now should know the time when their classroom Teacher will contact them through whatever platform that has been established. For the younger children that may be parental contact on behalf of the student. We are expecting students to be engaged in their At-Home Learning and making contact with the teacher daily is important. An automated text message is sent each day if there has been no contact made by 11.00am for Secondary students and 1:00pm for Primary students on that day.

Learning and working in this different way will take some time for everyone to get used to, and it will be understandable to have problems with how we do things at first. The Senior Leaders are meeting each day with the Teachers, to review, refine procedures and develop best practice for the ECCS At-Home Learning program.

One of these changes has been an adjustment in the Secondary timetable to reflect best practice. Shorter class times with breaks in between as well as 'Free Learning' each day after lunchtime. We want our students engaged in their learning, but in a healthy way. 'Free Learning' time after lunchtime gives students an opportunity to participate in some physical activity, practice their musical

instrument, work on their art piece or take part in the 'soccer challenge'. For Upper School students there is extra time to practice skills, complete work started earlier in the day or participate in on-line assessments.

Being connected at this time has become one of the most important factors in the delivery of Emmanuel's At-Home Learning program. It has become important for all families to activate their SEQTA Engage profile, as it is the School's most efficient way of communicating in real time with you and your family. Teachers in Secondary are using this platform for their At-Home Learning and for the Primary, it is the main profile for communication with families. If any family has had any problems activating their SEQTA account, please contact the school for help as there are staff standing by to assist you.

Lastly, I would like to say that Emmanuel is a very special Christian community, and it is at times like these that we stand together, trusting in God to see us through difficult times. Please know that we are very conscious that family incomes may be affected by the downturn in the economy due to this unprecedented health crisis. Emmanuel has always had very generous subsidies for families that experience financial hardships. If you do find yourselves in this situation, please contact the school and you will find that we are very willing to help. We are determined that no family should have to leave Emmanuel due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Please also be aware that the Pastoral Care Team of Emmanuel is available should you find yourself struggling for whatever reason through this unusual time. Pastor Rex, Pastor Paul, and Pastor Terry of Girrawheen Baptist Church, along with the School Chaplains, Chinyama Kangombe and Trudy Roberts are available to be contacted. Our classroom teachers are also part of our Pastoral Care team and are often the first point of contact for families.

We are praying for all of our families at this time - that God will protect you and keep you over this Easter period as we remember the one event in history that changed our destiny forever. Christ's death and resurrection changes our whole worldview as we realise that we can now choose to live and join with God to bring about His Kingdom on Earth.

"Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life." (John 5:24)

What a wonderful message of hope we have for our community during this difficult time.

God bless



Gary Harris
Principal