



Wednesday 18 March 2020

Dear members of the Blackfriars OSHC Community

Re: COVID-19 (coronavirus) update

Thank you for supporting the measures implemented by the school over the past few days at, what is undoubtedly, a challenging time for all.

Blackfriars wishes to confirm that we will be abiding by today's federal government ruling to cancel all indoor gatherings of 100 or more in addition to the previously announced cancellation of outdoor gatherings of 500 or more. To this end we have now cancelled all upcoming assemblies, liturgical celebrations and indoor community events in addition to those events listed in correspondence on Monday. I am pleased to report that the social distancing measures implemented at the beginning of this week have already significantly reduced crowd sizes around the school.

We ask that families continue to keep up their hygiene practices of wiping down surfaces, covering coughs with elbows, regularly washing hands and avoiding touching your face. We also firmly ask that students enact social distancing practices as much as possible, leaving 1.5m distance between each other. We appreciate all the effort you are putting in to educate your children about these practices.

In addition to these hygiene and social distancing measures, we strongly encourage families to consider taking advantage of our cashless payment systems operating in both the school canteen and Uniform Shop, to avoid spreading germs through handling cash.

Update to advice if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 at Blackfriars.

If we are advised by authorities of a confirmed case of COVID-19, or of the necessity for a forced closure, our process will be as follows:

- School closure SEQTA Direct Message and SMS sent to parents / caregivers.
- School will continue to operate as normal until the end of the school day.
- OSHC will operate as normal that day.
- Families wishing to collect their child before the end of the day are free to do so, ensuring that they are signed out at the school Administration, Student Services Office or ELC.
- Students who use the Blackfriars school buses will have the regular services provided departing at 3.25pm.
- During any school closure it is imperative that students remain at home and continue to practise social distancing and personal hygiene procedures.

Wellbeing advice

We understand that many students, and indeed families and members of our wider community, may be experiencing mental health challenges at this time. We wish to remind you that Blackfriars offers on-site counselling for all students (referral forms can be found on SEQTA).

There are also a number of publicly available resources for children and adults, which we have compiled here and will continue to update: <https://blackfriars.sa.edu.au/latest-news/covid-19-resources-for-families/>

Keeping up to date

Please continue to access official information from Blackfriars via SEQTA, the school website, our social media channels and SMS. To make it easier for you to access the most up-to-date information, we have added a red banner across the top of the Blackfriars website that will direct you to the latest updates from the school, as well as from Catholic Education SA.

Again, we thank you for your ongoing support of the precautions taken by the school at this time, designed to keep all members of our community safe. Our sense of community is always strong at Blackfriars, but never more so than when we face challenges as a united and compassionate group.

Yours sincerely



Simon Cobiac

Principal