



Pittwater House

From the Principal

25 March 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

With the 'new normal' now in place for 48 hours, I am keen to communicate with you, our School families. Above all, I wish you and your children to feel supported as we navigate remote learning at Pittwater House. Our work in the delivery of classes and the processes we have established, is ensuring that learning continues wherever our students may be based, and that you feel the communication and feedback is what you have come to expect from us.

Having said this, the situation continues to be fluid as decisions continue to be made at State and Federal level, that may impact in ways not yet known. Thus, I am unable to make predictions with any accuracy. Daily the numbers of students on Campus grow smaller, however whether here or at home, every effort is being made to address any challenges that may be experienced in our delivery. We know for example, that some families had problems with their home connectivity, which was simply overloaded through both children and parents working remotely. We know too, that students are enjoying sessions with their teacher through Zoom or Canvas Conferencing and these will gradually be added as we navigate our remote learning. At the moment we are trialling varying approaches as best suit the different learning styles of the students in each class. Thus, I do ask for your patience and we have all been heartened by the many emails and messages of support as well as your experiences at home.

Clearly, there is concern about the disruption to teaching and learning, no more so than amongst our families with HSC students. NESA met yesterday and will continue to meet as the situation evolves. They have assured all Schools and students that the HSC is going ahead in 2020, despite many students staying at home due to the COVID-19 outbreak. To quote the Chair of the NESA Board Professor Peter Shergold in a message to students: "we want to assure you that you will be able to get a HSC certificate this year, and that the certificate will facilitate access to university, further education and employment, as it has for students over the past 50 years". He went on to say, "keep learning, do your assessments as advised by your school, make progress on your major projects where you can and, most importantly, look after yourself, whether you are at school or at home. Reach out to family, friends and your teachers if you need to".

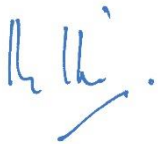
And all students and families at Pittwater House, know the extent to which we are here to support you at this time. Please do refer to the K-12 Remote Learning Parent and Student Wellbeing Guide to ensure you are aware of the array of people working tirelessly to help in whatever ways we can.

Again, I thank you for your patience, understanding and support in this dynamic environment. It will be challenging for all of us to establish what the 'new normal' will be. This is a very challenging situation for all families as well as Staff and we are working to manage the broad implications of both the virus exposure

and the temporary situation where we are open for those who need to access our classes whilst recognising the need for students to be working from home if at all possible. What we do know is that this period of remote learning will support efforts to minimise the spread of the coronavirus within the community. We will continue to connect with you via email and video messaging over the days ahead as we work together through these unusual circumstances.

With my kind regards

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N. Hillier'.

Dr Nancy Hillier
Principal and CEO

Ref: NH/CO