



Dear Parents,

On Monday the NSW Education Department announced updated requirements for schools to help ensure safety during the COVID environment. Shire Christian School is committed to working within these requirements to plan meaningful and enjoyable activities for our students.

I'm very appreciative of our incredible staff team and their desire to work on innovative ways to help students safely engage in the warm community that exists in our school. The efforts of our teachers to provide varied opportunities for learning during this period continues to be a great blessing. I am also very appreciative of the support and encouragement our parents are providing.

The new requirements place further restrictions on parents entering the school site. Because our school is committed to being a Christian community of care and relationships this will affect numerous aspects of school life, which I have outlined below. More detailed information about specific events will be provided closer to the date.

Modified finishing time arrangements

While we are trying to be consistent with the Education Department requirements, we recognise that some parents will need to be onsite to pick up their children. We are asking that parents of children in Year 5 and above wait in the car and students walk to the car, if at all possible.

To help the remainder of parents maintain physical distancing and to reduce congestion around the school entrance from Monday 24 August, Kindergarten to Year 2 will finish school at 2:30pm. Parents will be asked to wait in a designated area on the oval near the pedestrian gate to collect their children. We ask K-2 parents without children in other years to arrive by 2:30pm. Students in these year groups will be brought down to the front oval by the teacher no later than 2:30pm in the hope that those parents will take their children and leave before the 2:35pm bell. We appreciate that K-2 parents who have older children will need to stay and wait for those children. Class teachers will remain with any students who catch the bus.

Prep parents will be contacted separately about adjusted arrangements.

Based on the government regulations, we unfortunately need to ask that all parents leave promptly after collecting their children and not remain to socialise with other parents. We encourage parents to build community by finding other ways to connect and encourage one another.

Parents who need to be onsite for any other reason must go directly to the office to sign in. It would be helpful if parents did not bring pets onto the school site.



Year 12

We are seeking to recognise the achievements of our outgoing Year 12 students at a fitting and well-deserved graduation ceremony. Over the past few weeks I have written to the NSW government requesting we hold a safe, socially distanced outdoor graduation ceremony for family and friends. Unfortunately the latest announcement not only prevents us from holding an outdoor graduation, but also prevents us from allowing parents to be a part of any type of graduation. I appreciate the support of the Year 12 parent consultation group as we continue to navigate these changing requirements. At this stage it is looking likely that we will hold a graduation ceremony with Year 12 students and staff, which is professionally live-streamed to parents and our school community, on the morning of Thursday 24 September. We will send further details closer to the event.

The new requirements also prevent school camps from taking place until further notice. Unfortunately the Year 12 camp this term will not go ahead. To show these students how much we value them, the school is planning some exciting events for Year 12 and the rest of the school community during Week 9. I feel great sympathy for these students and am thoroughly committed to finding alternatives to any events that are impacted by the updated government requirements.

Camps

The school has retained our bookings for the Year 4/5, Year 6 and Year 7 to 11 camps in Term 4 in the hope that the regulations will change. If they don't run, the school intends to offer some other positive alternatives.

Expression

Our annual Expression exhibition will this year be displayed to our students only and will take place during school hours. We are looking forward to showcasing the amazing practical works produced by our students via video to the rest of our school community.

HSC Music Recital Evening

Our HSC Recital Evening is a great opportunity for our senior students to perform their repertoire before their final examinations. This year the performance will be live-streamed to the school community without an audience. [More information](#) is available for these students.

Assemblies

Unfortunately, parents will not be permitted to attend any student assemblies until at least the end of this term. We will send photos to the parents of award recipients.



Parent Teacher Evenings

The planned parent teacher evenings will proceed via video conference rather than face-to-face on September 9 and 15. Mr Stonestreet will write to parents separately to explain these arrangements.

Music

The latest requirements prevent the use of woodwind instruments in group settings. Unfortunately our [Junior Concert Band](#), [Secondary Concert Band](#) and [Year 4 Instrumental Program](#) will temporarily pause. Please click on the links for more detailed information.

Reminder

Any person who displays symptoms of the coronavirus must not attend the school site. Please use the [symptom checker](#) to determine if you should be tested. Students cannot return to school until a negative test result is received. We will continue to post updates to the [school website](#) and contact parents by email with any significant changes.

Thank you for your support throughout this period of uncertainty. Please join me in praying for those affected by the virus and its impacts.

I greatly look forward to the time we are able to host in-person events again and hope that our school community will be sustained as we seek to provide creative alternatives for our students and continue to trust in the provision of our Heavenly Father.

Kind regards,

Mr Brett Hartley
Principal