



Friday, 23 July 2021

Dear Families,

I hope this letter finds you going as well as you can be during this time. I would like to provide a brief summary of the last few days, as well as updating you on any new information that I have about the current situation.

### **Thank you**

I would like to affirm you and your families and all of our students for their work during the last few days. We have had an outstanding recommencement of our **Connected Learning Model** during lockdown.

I also want to thank our staff during this time who worked very well together (but remotely!) on the Wednesday to make final plans for lockdown period. As a snapshot of the TMC experience for students, rather than just *remote* or *online* learning, this week they've been able to access, amongst many opportunities:

- Individual and specific contact from each teacher for each class for the week ahead.
- Lesson by lesson learning.
- Wellbeing check-ins.
- Daily and shared logic, maths and card-building challenges.
- A 'guess the teacher's pet' challenge whereby teachers posted images of their pets and described their traits, which are strangely connected to their owners!
- Affirmations and self-care tips.
- An 'individual tricks shots' video challenge, where our students (and staff) have been challenging themselves to strategically kick soccer balls, hit basketball shots, throw bread into a toaster, and flip eggs... and filming and sharing their success!
- ... and more.

It has been a diverse and beautiful expression of holistic learning and wellbeing at Thomas More College.

### **Message From the CESA Director**

Dr Neil McGoran, Director of Catholic Education, is also very grateful for our Catholic Schools' Community response during this time. He has prepared a video [here](#) for families.

### **Plans for Next Week**



As with the current situation, we can really only plan for what is directly in front of us. At this stage, this means we continue to plan work on Monday and Tuesday as well as we have been this week. I imagine then that learning on those days will look pretty much identical to what it has on Thursday and Friday this week. The weekend's numbers and news will be critical to our chances of coming out of lockdown on the Wednesday. Whatever eventuates, we keep capitalising on what is presented to us and working with our students in this way to help them continue to **Thrive**. They have been fantastic during this time.

### **Quarantine & Exposure Sites**

I know that some of you may have been directed by SA Health to quarantine during this period, which may prevent your daughter or son returning to school next week. Please do not panic; we will continue to provide online learning for them during this time. If you haven't already, please update us of these details via the [front office](#) if this affects your child.

### **Students Working**

I have been made aware that some Senior School students have been offered shifts at work as 'essential workers' during this time, and that SA Health may have endorsed this. While SA Health may reserve the right to classify a worker as essential, it's important to note that this does not mean that a student can opt-in for work during what would be considered as school hours. The SA Government has [clear statements](#) on students working during school hours; even though students are not physically at school at the moment, they are required to be involved in study in the regular schools hours during this lockdown period. If you need support with this conversation with your son or daughter, please contact Year Level Leaders [Mark Hawkins](#) (12), [Katie Brown](#) (11) or [Damien Kelly](#).

### **In Closing**

We are a strong and good community who works well together, particularly during adversity. Please encourage your children to keep in contact with their teachers and key staff members with any questions or concerns and contact the front office if there are specific issues you may need to work through.

Thank you again for being part of TeamTMC during this time.

Take care,



LEARN MORE | LIVE MORE | BE MORE

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Corey Tavella".

Corey Tavella

Principal.