



Information on the Provision of Continued Learning at Thomas More College in Case of School Closure

Dear families,

We are writing to keep you informed of the College's current plan to support our students in continuing learning if there were to be a school closure at TMC due to COVID-19. It is important to us that you, our community, are reassured that the College has many systems in place to ensure students can continue learning during this time, and that Year 12 students will not be disadvantaged in their SACE.

Please note that, at this stage, at the time of writing this letter there is no evidence of a case of COVID-19 at TMC; we are sending this to keep you up to date and informed.

This morning the Prime Minister was clear in his statement that the current intent is to keep schools open. It's important to note then that our teaching and learning program still assumes students are at school. School work for any current absence is to be managed as it currently would be; ie. a student emailing her or his teacher in order to keep up with any work which can then be resumed when she/he returns to school.

The details below are our preventative and reactive measures should there be an incident which causes a school closure.

1. Preventative measures

Thomas More College already works regularly in an online learning environment. Our teachers currently use:

- **Schoolbox** for the provision of all summative tasks and assignments, accepting submissions of student work and online marking.
- **OneNote** as their class "workbook". In One Note teachers provide class work such as; worksheets, formative tasks, videos, screen casts explaining procedures and can mark and provide feedback on student work.

Further to this we have taken the following actions to ensure we are prepared if a school closure was to occur:

- We have asked all students and parents to **ensure access to school email, which will act as the method for communication between teacher and student in the event of a closure.** If you have not already checked your internet access at home, please do this now and inform your child's teachers if there is an issue.
- We have asked teachers of all Year 12 subjects and Year 11 English and Mathematics (SACE compulsories) to have work ready to go in the event of a sudden closure.
- Teachers have been supported in professional development using various tools within our already existing online learning platforms such as "screen casting" where they can record 'lessons' and live web tutorials.



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- We have asked Year 12 students to start taking learning materials home each night such as textbooks or portfolios and not leave these in their locker.

2. Current measures in place for the continuation of learning should a school closure occur

If a closure is required Thomas More College will act under direction of SA Health, Catholic Education South Australia and or State or Federal Government and will follow the procedures that these bodies have set in place.

a. If the closure is for a short period (2 Days)

Under the direction of the Assistant Principal Teaching and Learning:

- Year 12 teachers will contact their classes directly via email informing them of the work to complete in this time and how support will be provided via our online platforms.
- Students in Years 7-11 will receive information via email informing them to continue with any work they have in progress. All students would have assignments, homework and classwork currently on the go which can be completed in this time. Students in Years 7-11 are welcome to email their teachers for support; given the short 2-day period, the responses may not be prompt.

b. If the closure is for a longer period (at this stage 'longer' school closures have not exceeded 14 days)

Under the direction of the Assistant Principal Teaching and Learning:

- The school will most likely take a day to meet, virtually or otherwise, and confirm the plans below.
- Year 12 teachers will contact their classes directly via email informing them of the work to complete in this time and how support will be provided via our online platforms.
- Teachers will then communicate directly with their Year 7-11 classes, via email informing them of the work to complete in this time and how support will be provided via our online platforms.

The continued provision of learning during this time will be provided online as appropriate to the subject and task. Email will continue to be a point of contact to direct students to Schoolbox.

How will this impact my child's Year 12 results?

We are confident that a closure at this stage of the year can be managed through the provision of online learning and using special provisions such as flexibilities in due dates. The SACE board has been in regular communication with schools to ensure that no student is disadvantaged due to school closures. If a closure was to become longer term, we will work with the SACE board to ensure that special provisions are enacted and continue communicating with families.

The situation around COVID-19 is one which is constantly changing. These measures have been designed based on the situation as it currently stands and the most up to date advice from SA Health and Catholic Education South Australia. College Executive and staff are monitoring changes closely and will make adaptations to this plan if necessary. SMS and Email will continue to be relied upon for



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communication; If you have not already done so, please ensure our office has your most current email address.

It is fair to say that we are chartering new territory and there is much in the media highlighting different opinions, emotions and attitudes. The wellbeing of our community is of our utmost concern. I strongly believe that we are well prepared to work with your children with what these challenges may present. Our staff's response has been excellent, and I would like to commend their work with our students, from a teaching and non-teaching point of view. Thank you also for the trust you continue to show in us. We would encourage students to speak to your family, wellbeing mentors and subject teachers should you have any worries, concerns or questions about what is currently happening. Please also contact me to discuss related issues if you feel the need.

Take care,

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

Corey Tavella
Principal