

To our families and students

We have been working on keeping you updated with the current situation at Erindale College related to how we are working to support students through the COVID-19 pandemic. As you are aware, on Monday the decision was communicated, that schools would become pupil free from Tuesday 24 March. There has been some confusion expressed by parents/carers around what this means for teaching and learning, and assessment. This letter seeks to clarify some of those messages.

Yesterday an email was sent to all students with the following message:

The Q1 teaching program will end as of today and all teaching and learning functions for classes (including lessons, assessments/exams) have been paused for the pupil free period. Q2 units will start on Tuesday 28 April. There will be some adjustments to your unit outlines, and to the term 2 schedule. Please stay up to date - as the information is updated, it will be sent to you by email. You cannot attend school during the pupil free period.

Please stay at home and minimise your in-person contact with friends. Avoid even small gatherings and public places as much as you can. Young people may be more resilient to CoronaVirus than others, but can still get sick, carry and transmit the disease which may cause severe illness or death for more vulnerable people in our society. If you need urgent advice or assistance, please call 6142 2977 between 8:30am and 3:30pm.

Please take care of yourselves and each other.

This was sent based on the best information and advice available to us at the time. I appreciate that some of the messaging is different from announcements made later in the day and I apologise for any confusion.

What pupil free means

Teachers will remain on duty and are preparing to be able to run all classes in an online, digital format from 28 April. This time will position us to best support the continuity of each student's education. It also means that students can complete set work from home if possible. Students who are required to attend school will be supervised to complete work in Google classroom.

How will we support your child's learning?

Teachers will provide activities and classwork for students for each class via their Google Classroom page throughout the pupil free period, although regular teaching and learning activities are paused. Some of our teachers may set new work for students or attempt to make contact during this time but this is not a requirement for my teachers to do this as they will be preparing for a stronger online learning environment during for next term if required. Students are required to check their Google Classrooms throughout each day for instructions including requirements for completion. To help support students we will ensure that each student has a parental contact email associated with their Google Classroom accounts.

We will continue to work in ways that ensure students can be assured of experiencing rigorous and high-quality lessons from Erindale College teachers. Our goal is that our students qualify for their chosen certificate at the end of the year regardless of national and global disruption.

Assessment and exams

Colleges have sought advice from the ACT BSSS and are supported in adjusting assessment relevant to each school's context. The ACT Year 11 & 12 system is extremely flexible and it is a system of continuous

school-based assessment, moderated by an external scaling test called the AST Scaling test. More specific advice from the BSSS will be made available to you as soon as possible.

As a result of the COVID19 situation there will be no tests/exams in week 9 or during this term. These tests will be postponed until next term. It may be that students complete end of semester tests that cover the entire semester's content. It is important that students stay up to date with the coursework and revision, especially activities that have been posted on Google Classroom for completion.

Assessment items given prior to the pupil free period (which commenced on Monday the 23 March), will be granted extensions until week 1, term 2 at this stage. The AST trials set down for 1 and 2 April (week 9) will not go ahead. However, the AST preparation program which includes workshops for students will start for Year 12 students next term and will be online if required.

Wellbeing

We are mindful on the impact that this may have on both the students' academic, social and emotional wellbeing. For the period of time that we are operating as a pupil-free school, our students will experience challenges that will test their emotional resources. For most young people family members provide emotional support in the first instance. We would also continue our support through:

- Students being periodically contacted by a teacher as a check-in. Contact could be a phone call, email or SMS.
- Providing reasonable adjustments for students unable to continue to participate in online learning due to circumstances out of their control – illness or misadventure.
- Access to our Link Coordinators is available by email or phone:

Year 10:	Natalie Keen	natalie.keen@ed.act.edu.au
Year 11:	Michelle Skerry	Michelle.skerry@ed.act.edu.au
	Terry Brady	terrence.brady@ed.act.edu.au
	Sebastian Gray	sebastian.gray@ed.act.edu.au
Year 12:	Donna Smythe	donna.symthe@ed.act.edu
	Daniel Hawke	daniel.hawke@ed.act.edu.au

Access to our school psychologists Anne anne.nguyen@ed.act.edu.au and Kristy kristy.ward@ed.act.edu.au is available. They can be contacted by email to schedule a phone call appointment.

Please be aware that this is an evolving situation and we will continue to keep you updated as new advice emerges.

Take care and stay well.

Warm regards



Jessie Atkins

Principal