



8 April 2020

Dear PCS Families,

COVID-19 Important Updates

Here we are at the end of Term 1. It has been unlike any other term I have ever experienced, which I am sure you would agree with from a parent perspective. The challenges faced by the education sector, as well as many other industries, has been unprecedented, however I have been greatly encouraged by the support of all of you, as we sought to make adjustments to stay within NSW Government guidelines.

As we head into the Easter break, I want to provide you with information across a few key areas that might be useful in your future planning as we look toward Term 2. It is important to note that any information I am providing you with today is subject to change pending NSW Government advice or regulations.

At-Home Learning Timeframe

Whilst I am unable to provide any specific information at this time, I am confident that At-Home Learning procedures will continue for the beginning of Term 2. Furthermore, there is significant information currently circulating to suggest that schools across NSW will continue with At-Home learning procedures for the majority of Term 2. Can I encourage you as families to prepare yourselves for the likelihood of this occurring. There are many variables that could change the lockdown timelines for schools and the community, however it would be wise to assume that we will be operating in a similar manner for the coming months. With our support, families should continue to adapt and plan for At-Home learning as best they can.

Kindergarten Chromebooks

I am pleased to announce that PCS has managed to source and purchase an additional 25 Chromebooks to cater for our Kindergarten class. This means that all students from Kindergarten to Year 12 have their own Chromebook to assist families with at-home learning. I will email further advice to Kindergarten parents regarding the pick up of Chromebooks for their children.

2020 HSC

The Commonwealth Minister for Education, Dan Tehan, has confirmed that the Education Council have collectively agreed that Year 12 students will be awarded an ATAR this year and all students will receive a leaving certificate for 2020. There will not be any extension to their years of study and, accordingly, there will be no Yr 13. Each state and territory will be responsible for the awarding of senior secondary certificates in their jurisdiction and follow national principles to support local decisions. We are awaiting further details from NESA as to how this will look for PCS students and will communicate with you as information comes to hand. This will include any changes in procedures for HSC Major Works.

Term 2 Fee Statements

Next week you will receive your updated fee statements. We recognise that for some, this period has been and will continue to be a challenging time financially. If you are experiencing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 crisis and need to apply for fee relief, please don't hesitate to make contact with our Business Manager, Mrs Elsie Joubert via phone on 68624164 or by email at e.joubert@parkescs.nsw.edu.au. We value your commitment to our school and want to reinforce our commitment to supporting you where we can.

On behalf of all our teachers, support and administrative staff, thank you again for your incredible support and encouragement during this transition period to the At-Home Learning platform. These may be uncertain times, however rest assured that we remain committed to delivering the highest standard of education possible for the benefit of your children, however that looks.

Wishing you a safe, blessed and happy Easter.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glen Westcott', written in a cursive style.

Glen Westcott
Principal