



30 July 2021

Dear parents and carers

On behalf of the staff at APCS, we are proud of what our students are achieving – engaging with their learning at home, completing and submitting tasks online or on paper, participating in Zoom classes and meetings and continuing to stay connected with their classmates, their teachers and their education.

We also want to express our sincere thanks to all the parents and carers who have been working with the School to support their children to successfully engage with online learning.

Our parent survey told us that many of you are finding the learning from home experience to be much easier the second time around. However, we know that this is a challenge for many of our families – juggling access to technology, Wi-Fi limits and working from home at the same time.

The survey we did with our staff provided very similar feedback. Many of our staff are also juggling the same challenges – delivering the learning online and in paper packs whilst also supervising their own children with their at home learning requirements. It has been inspiring to listen to our staff, via online meetings, regular check-ins and the staff survey, as they demonstrate their dedication and commitment they have to working collaboratively to continually review and strengthen their own practices within the APCS at-home learning model.

In particular, I would like to pay tribute to our administration staff who have been working tirelessly co-ordinating the collation and distribution of paper packages of work and laptops, responding to communications by phone and email and ensuring that the individual needs of parents, carers and students are met.

### **Monday 2 August to Friday 13 August 2021**

APCS continues to operate under Level 4 restrictions from Years K – 12. This means that “Learning from Home” continues.

I want to thank all the families who have continued to support our community by keeping their children at home to minimise movement in the community

***Families are encouraged to keep their children at home.*** The School is open for families of essential workers and those who may need it. ***Staff rostered on to provide supervision at School are at a minimum.*** Teachers in Primary and Secondary at School each day provide minimal supervision. They are not delivering face-to-face learning. They are not providing direct instruction. The students at School participate in online learning. The teachers at School, whilst supervising students with their online learning, are also delivering lessons to their classes who are learning from home.

Where students and staff are at School, guidelines apply, which include no community use (except early childhood services and Camp Australia), no canteen, mask wearing for all adults on the School site and while in indoor settings masks are mandatory for all staff and all Secondary School students.

### **Staff rosters for 'at-School' supervision**

The staff rosters change each week. The rosters are developed and aligned to Covid safety advice from the Department of Education and NSW Health. The School must keep staff numbers on-site to a minimum. Currently we do not roster staff at School who:

- live in the LGA's under stricter lockdown
- have health reasons placing them at greater risk of harm if they were to come in contact with COVID
- travel by public transport
- are parents and need to keep their children at home engaged in home learning

Linda Turner, Mr Forbath and Mrs Lade continue to do an amazing job, managing their rosters, which respond to changes to student numbers at School and individual staff needs, often on a daily basis.

### **Ongoing planning to support continuity of education for all students learning from home**

Our Stage and Faculty Teams meet online regularly throughout the week to reflect on current practice, share strategies and resources, identify concerns, respond to feedback from students and parents and make continual improvements in the learning from home model.

Our Primary Stage Teams are finalising detailed class letters, which Mrs Lade will review and distribute to parents and carers early next week.

High School Faculty Teams continue to post tasks on each Google Classroom and deliver some lessons on Zoom each week. The weekly Year Zoom meetings are well attended by High School students who get targeted information and opportunities to discuss and clarify expectations. Last week, Ms Kasz Zoomed in with each Year meeting and provided explicit physical activity and health lifestyle activities for High School students to do during this period of at home learning.

High School have implemented a weekly engagement report on each student in Years 7-12. This report has been very well received according to feedback from parents.

### **From 16 August Year 12 students can return to School**

The School Leadership Team are currently working on what the return to School for Year 12 students, in a COVID-safe way, will look like. We are planning to have HSC trial examinations start in the week of 16 August. Year 12 students need to work with their teachers to prepare for their HSC trial examinations.

The Department of Education are working with NSW Health on the vaccination program and Antigen testing for Year 12 students returning to school. We have been told that the details of how priority vaccination and Antigen testing will work for students will be released as soon as possible, ahead of the return to school on 16 August.

Year 12 students and parents can expect to receive a more detailed communication from the School early next week.

### **Learning from home without technology**

The School has laptops and some dongles which we can loan out to families who need access to technology. Please phone the school on 9698 1967 and talk to one of our administration staff about your needs. They will coordinate a laptop and contact you when you can come to School to pick it up and sign the Loan Agreement paperwork.

Paper packages of work continue to be produced each week. If you need more paper packages, please phone the School on 9698 1967 and talk to one of our administration staff about what Year your child is in. They will organise for the work to be collated and contact you when you can come in to pick the package up or post the package to you.

Please return completed work to the School each week. Hand it to the administration staff. They will ensure that the completed students work gets to the right teachers for marking and feedback.

### **Camp Australia**

Continues to operate at APCS as it has from the start of the stay at home rules. Should families require Outside School Hours Care, they must visit the [Parent Portal](#) to book their care as they need it.

### **Resources to support learning from home**

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/learning-from-home/learning-at-home>

Yours sincerely

Diane Fetherston

Principal