



TO: Staff and Families of Immanuel Gawler

RE: Learning ‘On-site / Learning ‘Off-site’

Again, I would like to reiterate our appreciation for the way our community is managing the current situation.

Many of you will have seen media statements regarding formally ending the school term for students on Friday 3rd April 2020.

It is being stated that the last four days of term will be pupil free days for school. While this announcement has given some clarity, there are still many unknowns. As information comes in and decisions are made, we will pass them on as soon as we can. The basic implications of this are...

1. All students will be on holidays from 3.25pm on Friday the 3rd of April and will be on holidays for three weeks during which time the learning programme (either ‘on-site’ or ‘off-site’) will cease.
2. Staff will be at school during the week of the 6th of April (Monday to Thursday) and will use these four days to continue to develop our capacity to deliver learning ‘off-site’ in the event that school can not return ‘on-site’ on Monday the 27th April as expected.

Our school will do everything it can to support our community in these changing times to ensure the very best we can for the kids and families that God has placed in our care.

Increasingly our learning mode has been changing from ‘On-site’ to ‘Off-site’ over the last couple of weeks. Our current attendance rate is less than 50% and this is decreasing daily. We fully respect the decisions families have made to either stay away from school or continue to attend.

We have worked hard to provide platforms and consistency across our school to support families who are learning ‘off-site’ at the moment.

We will support families in whatever mode of learning they need to access for the last week of Term 1 (which now runs from Monday the 30th March to Friday the 3rd April / formerly Week 10) and we will do whatever we can to support families who are involved in the delivery of essential services.

We have been informed that we are to offer ‘care’ during the pupil free week but it will only be available to those who are engaged in essential services. There is still clarity that needs to emerge about this but the Minister has said this includes *“health care, emergency services, waste management, pharmacy, supermarkets etc, children of families in employment where there is no capacity to work from home.”*



So... we are now gearing up for a mode of learning that is fully 'off-site' (possibly for some/all of Term 2). The purpose of this letter is to outline some of the strategies we will implement to support this.

Communication with families – School administration will continue to use email as the main source of communication with families. Social media (FB and Twitter) will support this and we are setting up structures whereby school staff will routinely ring students/families to check in on them and offer support, especially those students with learning support needs.

We will implement a 'school wide' Facebook page that will act as a 'help desk' and point of connection for our school community.

Learning platforms – Seesaw will continue to be the 'front door' to our delivery of learning 'off-site'. All students have a Seesaw account and access to the learning engagements that have already been placed on there. Some of these learning engagements (that have been posted by staff) will be links to other web-based sites (ie 'epic' for reading etc) or Microsoft teams for task assignment and digital sharing. Staff, particularly in the JP grades, are developing (paper) workbooks for things such as handwriting.

Programming of learning 'off-site' – Staff are developing schedules and routines that students/families can follow to provide structure, connectedness and variety for our students – we don't want our kids on screens all the time and so there will be learning engagements that are physical or book based etc as well. This can be tricky as we know (some) families may not have access to some of the physical resources for some of the possible learning engagements. We will have an intentional delivery around well-being and devotional material.

Technology / connectivity – Our students in Yr 4/5/6 are well placed via the iPad programme we rolled out last year but students in other grades may not have access to technology in their homes. We have a limited bank of iPads we can lend to families who need to have this support but they are wi-fi only and so will require connectivity. If you are in need of this support please email richiec@ilsg.sa.edu.au ASAP so that we can allocate them appropriately. We realise that some families have limited connectivity at home and so the learning engagements we deliver via Seesaw/Microsoft Teams will ensure that 'full time' connectivity is not necessary.

We are also aware that families may need tech support to ensure things are connecting properly. With the students here at school we are testing access and connectivity and we have supported many families (who are already learning 'off-site') who have had issues. We encourage you to work through your teacher for support if needed to access Seesaw etc. We will provide advice and guidance on acceptable ICT use at home for our students as they learn 'off-site'.



Next steps – Now that we have some definite timings (regarding holidays/pupil free days etc)

- **Students who have already left:** should come in to school to collect a 'pack' from the class teacher/s that will contain pencil cases (that have not already been collected) and books etc to support learning 'off-site'. iPads should be brought on site to ensure they are updated via our network and that connectivity is working. If you are not comfortable coming into the school grounds we will arrange for staff to meet you in car park etc. Our tech team are setting up a 'wireless access point' from the Daly Street carpark so you can access our network. (School issued iPads need to be on our network for all management and the updating of apps.) This wireless point will remain in the Daly Street carpark for the foreseeable future so access to updating apps can happen at any time.
- **Students who are yet to leave:** will have all of the matters above ready for when they leave whether through personal choice, forced shutdown or the start of the school holidays on Friday the 3rd of April at 3.25pm.

We will work towards the enactment of all of these points above so that they will be ready to roll out next week (from Monday the 30th March / Monday Week 10) before, during or after school.

So, if you are a family that is learning 'off-site' we'd encourage you to come in next week some time to attend to the matters above and garner any support you made need. It is becoming increasingly complex for our staff to be fully running a programme for those 'on-site' while servicing a growing number of people accessing 'off-site', but we will continue to respond and adapt as best we can.

It's our fervent prayer that we are able to return to school as normal on-site on Monday the 27th April, but in the event that it's not possible, we are working hard to do the very best we can to deliver learning 'off-site' that is relevant, challenging, engaging and significant.

The ability to communicate and collaborate to solve problems is something we try to instil in our students. I can't express how proud I am of our staff and community in the way they are modelling this in our current context.

Please don't hesitate to contact us at any time over any matter.

Daryl Trigg

26th March 2020