



15 July 2021

Dear RJ Community

## **New Update (No.21/6) regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

Further to the announcement by the NSW Premier yesterday to extend the current lockdown until Friday 30 July, the School Executive, in liaison with the School Council Chair, has decided to implement measures for the remainder of this week, and Monday of next week, to enable adequate time for our staff preparing for the delivery of our 'Distance Learning Plan' (DLP) across Pre-K to Year 12. To this end, Monday 19 July will be a student free day for all students from Pre-K to Year 12 with the DLP being available from Tuesday 20 July.

This is not exactly the start to this term we all had imagined, but certainly one we had expected as we finished Term 2 with heightened restrictions followed by moving into lockdown at the start of the holiday break. As a School, we acknowledge that the announcement of a further extension could prove challenging for many of our families for a number of reasons. As a community, we are committed to navigating this journey together and supporting each other and our families.

For those new to our School this year and for those who travelled this road with us in 2020, can I reassure you that the expertise and diligence of our staff to attend to your child's learning will be on display throughout the DLP period. Following a review of our procedures and practices from last year, our staff have developed a more refined approach to our students' learning in this DLP mode.

To this end, and after consultation with the School Executive, our two Heads of Primary and Acting Head of Secondary have prepared documentation for parents (Distance Learning Plan: Information for Parents) which they will forward to you later today along with more detailed information with respect to your child/ren's DLP.

The following information, which has been discussed at length with the School Executive and staff, will be vital to the effective running of the School during this lockdown period. Please take careful note of those items that affect you directly and heed the requirements set down.

### **NSW Health Stay at Home Order – Limited School Supervision**

As Greater Sydney including the Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Wollongong and Shellharbour is currently under a Stay at Home Order, under the DLP, RJ will provide supervision to students to complete Distance Learning onsite at its two campuses to support parents who are essential workers on the days they are required to work and where they are unable to provide supervision to their child/ren to perform this essential work on these days.

Should you fall into this category and require supervision for Week 1, you will need to follow this link <https://bit.ly/3xDkBio> and **pre-register your child/ren before 11:00am on Monday 19 July** so the School can plan accordingly, noting that the majority of staff will also be working from home as per the NSW Health requirements. Students in attendance at School should wear their Sports or Winter Uniform. RJ students at School and at home will experience the same delivery. There will not be two different modes of delivering learning activities. That is, everyone will complete the DLP provided to all students.

### **Primary Distance Learning Plan**

Our Primary DLP will consist of a range of online learning activities covering the KLAs normally studied at School and delivered through platforms such as *Wushka* (K-3 only), *Seesaw* and *Zoom*. Other engaging resources will also be made available throughout the DLP period. Families will be provided, via email, with e-Bundles containing these varied activities which can be completed online or printed out at home and completed by students. Should a family not have access to a printer, a request can be made to collect a hardcopy bundle on Monday 19 July. Please follow our Head of Primary's instructions in their communication to you.

### **Secondary Distance Learning Plan**

Our Secondary DLP will consist of a combination of online *Zoom* sessions and uploaded modules of work to CANVAS for students to complete. Students will receive information from the Acting Head of Secondary with clear instructions on what students will be required to do. Please remember that students will not be required to do any work on Monday 19 July as this day has been designated a student free day for staff to complete their modifications from their face-to-face programs to a virtual learning environment. Students are asked to follow the DLP outlines provided to them and follow our Acting Head of Secondary's instructions in her communication to you.

### **Lines of Communication & Student Welfare – Primary & Secondary**

Our Welfare teams and School Counsellor will be on hand to assist families should parents need to contact the School to arrange support for their child. The Lines of Communication document on the School website contain the guidelines for parent contact with the School. This document should be accessed, and the guidelines followed, to ensure your child is well looked after during the DLP period.

For Primary students, class teachers will monitor and check-in with students throughout the DLP period and may contact parents should they feel the need to do so. Likewise, should a parent feel their child requires some welfare or learning support, they should contact their class teacher in the first instance.

All Secondary students will continue to meet during Homegroup times. This will allow our Secondary students to connect regularly and will allow Homegroup teachers time to monitor student well-being. Welfare Leaders will make regular contact with students who currently receive support and will respond to welfare issues brought forward by staff, parents and students.

### **Cancellation of School Events & Services (Canteen/Bus Services)**

Please note that the canteen and lunch order services at both Campuses will not be operational due to current NSW Health restrictions. This includes the Marsden Park snack day.

Our Marsden Park Bus services (including Ricky 6) will not be operational during lockdown and the DLP period. However, latest advice is that Busways are continuing to run their school services to the Oakhurst Campus.

Parents should contact their OOSH provider where applicable to check availability.

Some of our School events for Term 3 will no doubt be cancelled due to the impact of the lockdown period and general COVID restrictions. The following events have already been cancelled.

- The Anglican Schools' Corporation Choral Festival (Friday 26 July)
- As of July 13, NSW HEALTH Advice is that **no formal competitions or training sessions** are to take place and no community sport (whether training or a match) in Greater Sydney including Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Wollongong and Shellharbour should proceed. This includes coaching or tuition programs. <https://www.sport.nsw.gov.au/covid-19-information>
- CSSA and CIS events will be affected:
  - CSSA Secondary Girls Netball Final Teams Selection - Monday 19 July 2021

- CSSA Primary Girls State Netball GD - Thursday 29 July 2021
- CSSA Primary Boys State Football Finals - Thursday 29 July 2021
- Other sporting events such as the CSSA Primary/Secondary Athletics are TBC
- All RJ sporting clinics held in the mornings and afternoon are cancelled. Mr Mitchell will be in contact with the affected families.

Other cancellations will be made as necessary and communicated to you via our Heads of Primary or Acting Head of Secondary as they occur.

### **Secondary Parent Teacher Interviews – Week 1 & Week 2**

The following Parent Teacher Interview events will continue as planned and in the mode already pre-arranged (i.e. via *Zoom*):

- Year 9 Parent Teacher Interview (Wednesday 21 July)
- Year 10 Parent Teacher Interview (Wednesday 28 July)

### **What if?**

1. *What if there are problems with internet access at your home or in your residential area?*  
You should contact your internet provider as a matter of priority and seek a resolution to the problem.
2. *What if I have problems with connection issues?*  
Please email [helpdesk@rjas.nsw.edu.au](mailto:helpdesk@rjas.nsw.edu.au)
3. *What if my child has problems with accessing their work through CANVAS, OneNote or Zoom?*  
Please email: [distancehelp@rjas.nsw.edu.au](mailto:distancehelp@rjas.nsw.edu.au)
4. *What if my Secondary child has questions about lesson content?*  
Please post the questions on the discussion board in the CANVAS page (Secondary) or email your subject/class teacher (i.e. the teacher who typically teaches your class)
5. *What if I have a welfare issue or concern?*  
Please email [welfare@rjas.nsw.edu.au](mailto:welfare@rjas.nsw.edu.au)
6. *What if my child/ren do not have a device to complete the work on?*  
The School has a limited number of laptops available for Primary students and a signed loan agreement is required. Please download the relevant form [Laptop Loan Document](#) and email the completed form to [sghali@rjas.nsw.edu.au](mailto:sghali@rjas.nsw.edu.au) It is assumed that Secondary students have an operational laptop, if this is not the case, please contact Mr Gary Clay [gclay@rjas.nsw.edu.au](mailto:gclay@rjas.nsw.edu.au)
7. *What if we are having problems and are unable to pay School Fees?*  
Please email Mrs Ghali, Operations Manager [sghali@rjas.nsw.edu.au](mailto:sghali@rjas.nsw.edu.au) in the first instance, explaining your extenuating circumstances, so that a discussion with you can be arranged to find a possible way forward in the short term in consultation with the Principal.

### **What next?**

I intend to write another letter at the end of next week to let you know how we're going with our DLP and give you an update of our students' progress.

Blessings to you and your family.

Yours sincerely  
Alan Dawson | **Principal**