
Macquarie College COVID-19 Update 19 ~ 28 April

1 message

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28 April 2020 at 10:18



Good morning Parents and Carers,

Below is a further update from Macquarie College in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Finance Update

Macquarie College appreciates that, in many instances, the economic impacts of COVID-19 will likely be felt within our school community for much longer than the effects of the virus itself. While nothing can diminish the tragic toll on human life and communities resulting from the medical impacts of the virus, the economic impacts of the virus may continue to be felt for sometime into the future.

During Term 1 I wrote to you about Macquarie College's commitment to supporting our community to come through the current COVID-19 outbreak together, meaning that while we understood that some families may experience unanticipated financial challenges, as a school we were committed to putting in place measures to ensure that the financial impacts of COVID-19 would not mean that families would be unable to continue their children's enrolment at the school.

To that end, over the past weeks we have modelled out a number of scenarios, a process which itself has reflected the almost daily changes to the COVID-19 experience, and believe that we have now settled on a structure of support which will ensure that no family in either the 2020 or 2021 school years will be faced with the decision to withdraw their children from the school based upon financial hardship. To achieve this plan we have identified potential saving due to the constriction of excursions, camps and other activities brought about through changes to the school's programs in the first half of the 2020 school year. Having said that, we are also very aware that the circumstances relating to school operations may change quickly due to COVID-19, and consequently, we have allowed for a sufficient contingency within our planning to ensure that we are able to publish this plan to you with confidence.

In summary our plan is as follows:

- The provision of an initial \$200,000 to a MC COVID-19 Relief Fund, in addition to previously budgeted resources, to be made available to families to ensure that fee support and/or remission is able to be directed most effectively to families in need. (These funds will assist in ensuring that families in need can be assured of their capacity to meet their school fee commitments for the 2020 and 2021 school years).
- The implementation of a fast-tracked system of highly flexible fee support and/or remission strategies (this measure streamlines and simplifies the previous support application process to ensure that families needing support are not being asked to navigate unnecessary complexity).
- These measures will be monitored over the next 18 months to ensure that if COVID-19 support is still required post the 2021 school year, sufficient plans have been put in place to maintain such support on a needs basis.

Macquarie College places a high value on each and every one of our students and the families they represent and, as such, we remain committed to ensuring that we take all reasonable steps to ensure that, as a school community, we will get through this most difficult and complex period together. To that end, please be proactive in contacting our Business Manager, Stephen Andrews, at businessmanager@mc.nsw.edu.au, if our immediate support, via the MC COVID-19 Relief Fund can be of assistance at this time.

There have also been numerous reports in the media over the past few weeks of schools standing down, reducing the hours and in some cases dismissing staff during the current COVID-

19 outbreak. It is important to note that, just as in the case of our student/family community, Macquarie College likewise remains committed to maintaining the employment of each and every staff member throughout this period. This has led to us implementing a number of creative solutions over the past few weeks, however, with some normality now appearing on the horizon with students returning to school over the coming weeks, it would seem that we will be successful in our aim of maintaining full employment of our staff throughout this period. This is no small thing in the current context and something that we as a broader school community should take some pride in.

Finally, thank you for your continued support of Macquarie College. As a staff we consider it a privilege to partner with you in the education of your children and it is our hope that the financial support measures outlined above, and in particular the MC COVID-19 Relief Fund, will provide the flexibility for us as a collective school community to move through the next 18 months knowing that Macquarie College remains a safe and financially sustainable learning community for all families.

As always, please feel welcome to contact me directly at principal@mc.nsw.edu.au if I can assist you with navigating school related matters over the coming days and weeks.

Macquarie College will continue to monitor the current Government advice in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak and provide further updates as relevant to our community.

Kind regards,

Rohan Deanshaw

Principal

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