

15 May 2020

Assalamu alaikum Parents/Guardians,

## **STUDENTS RETURNING TO SCHOOL FAQ**

The College has prepared a Return to School Strategy in line with the State Government guidelines and recommendations. Below is an FAQ to help and assist you for your child's return.

### ***When will students return?***

- **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May** - Eid holidays for all staff and students.
- **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May** – Curriculum Day – all staff will be at school (no online work)
- **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May onwards** – VCE and students in Year 10 undertaking VCE subjects
- **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> of May** – VCAL students commence
- **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June** – Foundation – 2 and Year 7 students at school
- **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June** – Years 3-6 and Years 8 -10 at school (Foundation – 2 and Year 7's not required at school for these two days)
- **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June** – Curriculum Day all staff will be at school (no online work)
- **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June** – Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
- **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June** – All students and staff at school

### ***I am an essential worker and my child is currently part of the supervision program at the school; can I send my child to school?***

If you have registered previously, have been approved and your child has been attending then they may continue to do so, however you will need to make alternative arrangements for Curriculum Days as there will be no students at school. This supervision will only continue until Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June.

### ***How will you ensure my child's safety?***

We will endeavor to the best that we can while children are at school but we cannot guarantee everything. We will ensure students temperatures are checked as they enter College grounds.

### ***Will hand sanitizer be provided for students to use?***

Yes. We will ensure all classrooms have access to hand sanitizer for student use.

### ***What will happen if my child is scheduled to come into school? What will their learning look like?***

Your child's normal teacher will be teaching them face to face where possible.

### ***What will happen to my child's learning if they are not scheduled to be on College grounds?***

They will work remotely although no live sessions will take place. Students will be provided with work on School Box to complete.

***Will I be able to come into the School and meet with staff?***

No, parents will not be allowed onto College grounds. This is to ensure the safety of all children and staff. If you do need to speak to your child's teacher please contact the school for an appointment and the teacher will conduct a phone meeting with you. If a face to face meeting is required you will be contacted by the school senior leaders.

***Will the College Canteen be open or would I need to pack my child's lunch?***

We encourage students to come to school with a packed lunch. However, the College Canteen will be opened with a limited menu. Students in primary and secondary will be expected to complete a lunch order with the correct money and hand over to the homeroom teacher at the beginning of the day. The canteen will not be open at recess, so please ensure you send snacks with your child.

***What safety precautions can I take as a parent for my child?***

Ensure your child has a water bottle as the drinking fountains will not be operational to ensure no cross contamination. Ensure that your child's water bottle is clearly labelled with their name and class. Teach your child about good hand hygiene prior to starting and also social distancing. Please remind your child not to share food and drinks.

***Will my child's classroom be cleaned daily?***

Yes, we have organized extra cleaners to ensure that classrooms are cleaned daily and high touchpoint areas are cleaned throughout the day.

***Will the College be talking to my child about good hand hygiene and social distancing?***

Yes. We will organise videos and talks for students on their first day of school and go through expectations. Students who deliberately put a staff or student at risk will receive consequences as per the Behaviour Policy, e.g. coughing in people's faces, spitting etc. If your child has been found to be doing this deliberately, it may be a cause for them to be debarred.

***What will happen if my child is sick during the day?***

You will be contacted to come and pick up your child immediately. Please ensure you have spoken to a friend or relative and have them on standby should the need arise for your child to be picked up.

***Can I pick my child up early for an appointment?***

No, there will be no early pickups so if your child has an appointment please keep them at home.

***What if I am still concerned about the virus and choose not to send my child to school?***

We have information from the Victorian Chief Health Officer that it is safe for students to return to school however if you choose not to send your child, they will be marked as absent. No remote learning and work will be provided from Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June.

***What if I forget to pack lunch for my child, can I drop it off?***

No, we will not be accepting lunch drop offs so please ensure you are organised and have packed your child's belongings accordingly every morning.

***Will buses be operating?***

Further information will be provided as soon as possible.

***Will there still be a recess and lunchtime?***

Yes, students will still have their recess and lunch. Please remind your child to keep social distancing during recess/lunchtime.

***I have seen students line up outside their classrooms, will this still be the case?***

Yes, however we will ensure they are spaced out as much as possible.

***Will the playgrounds be open?***

Yes. Only current Al-Taqwa students will have access to it. There will be hand sanitisers near the playground for student use and the playgrounds will be cleaned down daily.

***Will assemblies still take place?***

No, there will be no group gatherings, therefore assemblies will not take place.

***Will the library be opened?***

Yes, the library will be opened. However, students using the library will need to ensure that they are not sitting or standing too close to others.

***Will parent -teacher interviews still take place?***

Yes, these will be conducted in Term 3, however they will be done via phone or zoom. Parents will need to book appointments as per previous years. More information will be provided closer to the date. Please ensure school fees will be paid up to date.

***Will there be reports?***

Yes. Further information will be provided shortly.

***Will there still be exams?***

There will be no exams this term however there will be Common Assessments taking place this term. In Term 3, students will have exams. Information regarding this was placed on the College Website, Facebook page and School Box.

***Will student attendance be taken?***

Yes, we have a legal obligation to ensure that student attendance is taken twice a day. Classroom pages will advise how attendance will be marked for students remotely studying from home.

***I have a child in Year 12 and a child in Grade 3. Can I send both to school?***

No, according to the Victorian Premier, the Minister for Education and the Chief Health Officer, there needs to be a staggered return to school. You need to ensure you follow the dates mentioned above and organise alternative arrangements until the 9<sup>th</sup> of June when all students are set to return.

***Won't Children get Covid-19 at school?***

Social distancing where practical will occur and so will extra cleaning. The College will ask that nobody congregates as they arrive/depart school at the start and end of the day.

***Will incursions and excursions start this term?***

No, excursions, camps and incursions will not commence until we have approval from the relevant authorities.

***Will there still be homework club?***

Yes, homework club/reach for the stars will continue after the 9<sup>th</sup> June. Further information will be provided.

***When I drop my child off at school, can I meet up with friends and have a chat on school grounds before I go home?***

No, once you have dropped your child off at school you are to leave the College grounds immediately. Any parents found to be congregating will be asked to move on. Please be aware that authorities will be checking mass gatherings and social distancing at schools. Heavy penalties from authorities may apply.

***What if my child is late in the morning, can I bring them to the office?***

No, you are to stay in your car and ask your child to go to the front office where they will be signed in as Late and then sent to class. A staff member will be allocated to assist students to sign in. It is important all students bring their ID cards with them at all times.

***Can I drop off money or my child's book once school has started.***

No, once your child is on College grounds, parents will not be able to drop off money, projects, lunches or anything else as per the department of health guidelines.

***Will prayers still take place at school?***

Yes, prayers will take place at school however in student's homeroom. Students will be separated into different areas of the school to minimize the number of students congregating.

***What if my child is on an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) or placed on an Academic or Behaviour Contract/Agreement and I need to meet the teacher?***

Information regarding ILP's will be posted home to parents or you will receive a phone call from the College.

***Will there be staggered Student Pickup/Drop Off?***

Yes, there will be staggered pick up times for students from Foundation – 2. Staff will take the students to the masjid area at staggered times for parents to pick up their child. Grade 3 students will be dismissed at normal dismissal times however they will no longer wait in the shaded area on school grounds but will be walked out by the teacher to the carpark area. Foundation students who are being picked up by their siblings will remain in their classroom. Those who go by bus will follow normal procedure starting from Week 9, Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2020.

In the mornings, Foundation students will be dropped off at the front office and staff will escort them to their classrooms. Please ensure you are on time and not late.

More information on this process will be sent out shortly.

***My Child has lost their school jumper, will the uniform shop be open?***

Yes, we can confirm that PSW will open next Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. The following trading times will ensue:

- Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays / 9am-5pm and
- Saturdays 10am-1pm \*We will remain closed on Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays for the time being.

***Will the primary morning hifz classes and Saturday classes resume as normal?***

Yes, they will resume as normal.

***Will the Primary Qur'an classes and afterschool Arabic classes commence this term?***

No, they will commence in Term 2. We will commence these in Term 3.

Kind regards

Mohammad Hallak  
Vice Principal