

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Dear Northside families,

As a community, together we face unprecedented times. This is not just as a school or a city, it is an international challenge that we are seeing change both rapidly and significantly.

Our staff have worked tirelessly to ensure our students continue to learn and learn well. Based on my conversations with colleagues around Australia, Northside's delivery of learning at school or in the home is the equal of many high fee schools, and we are continuing to evolve and improve it for all year levels. I am incredibly grateful to our staff for this and am very proud of what we have achieved over the last few years in developing our teaching and learning strategies to enable students to engage in active learning both in the classroom and also remotely in their individual spaces at home. This has been a strong focus for NCC in the last 18 months and now, in the midst of these new challenges we are all now facing, the College is in a very strong position to help your child continue to learn effectively and make all the necessary progress that will enable them to be successful in the future.

Last week, we held our **Remote Learning Day** as a warm up for what may lie ahead for teachers, students and parents. A big thankyou for all the parent and student feedback in response to the Remote Learning Day experience. This has helped us to focus in on any of the problems that may come with Remote Learning and work on solutions before the start of next term. Our College Executive Team are working through the school holidays to fine tune the processes involved and we are determined to provide a remote learning experience of the best possible quality for every student in the event that they are unable to come to school next term. Much of this involves the support that College staff will give to students to ensure that you as parents don't feel you have to now home school your children.

We will keep you informed every step of the way.

I am very conscious that while we have been ensuring the continuity of your children's education, we know families that have been significantly impacted by the effects of COVID-19. It has been sad to hear of the loss of employment by some parents and very significant downturns in business income by others.

We know that many Northside families **will likely meet eligibility criteria** to receive financial support from the Federal ([www.australia.gov.au](http://www.australia.gov.au)) and Victorian ([www.vic.gov.au](http://www.vic.gov.au)) Governments, including:

- **Job Keeper Payments** (up to \$1,500 fortnightly)
- **Job Seeker Unemployment Benefits** (up to \$1,100 fortnightly)
- **Economic Support Payments** (\$750 one-off payments)
- **Rent Assistance** (for families)
- **Healthcare Cards** (reductions in healthcare and utility costs. It also attracts Northside Fee reductions of \$125 per primary student or \$225 per secondary student when the CSEF form is signed, returned to the College and accepted by the Department of Education. The College also receives government funding for each accepted parent Healthcare Card number / CSEF form.  
[www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/programs/health/CSEF-Application-Form-2020.pdf](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/programs/health/CSEF-Application-Form-2020.pdf))
- **Family Tax Benefits** (for families)

- **Government Loan Guarantees** (up to \$250k per borrower with loan holidays)
- **Boosting Cash Flow Payments to Businesses** (from \$20k to \$100k BAS credits)
- **\$500m Business Support Fund** (for Victorian businesses)
- **\$500m Working for Victoria Fund** (for Victorian workers who have lost jobs)
- **Victorian Payroll Tax Refunds** (for all Victorian businesses who pay payroll tax)
- **Victorian Rent Relief** (for commercial tenants in Victorian government buildings)

Our immediate priority is to ensure stability for your child's education at this incredibly challenging time for some families. I ask that any family facing financial difficulty, for any reason, to please contact the Finance Office on (03) 9467 2499 to discuss your situation and concerns.

We are acutely aware of enormity of the hardships being experienced right across our Australian community and we will do everything we can to ensure the ongoing education of all students currently at Northside Christian College.

Once again, you have my assurance that we are absolutely committed to working with all our families in our shared navigation through these very complex times.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Damian Higgins', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Damian Higgins  
Principal