



11th March 2022

Dear Parents and young men,

We are now in Week 6 of Term One and as we finish off this week I feel that we have turned a corner in our clash with Covid. This might seem a little premature but I prefer to be optimistic and hopeful.

Throughout this week our student numbers have risen steadily to the point where we now have around 70% attendance from our students.

Our Staff absences due to Covid have halved since a week ago meaning that we will continue to review our plans for having all Year levels at school.

For next week we will continue with our Plan of rostering home one Year level a day.

Rostered Days to Learn from Home

Monday	Year 9
Tuesday	Year 10
Wednesday	Year 11
Thursday	Year 12
Friday	Year 13

Our goal and priority as always will be to have every year level on-site, everyday, for their teaching and learning, I am forever hopeful that this will be the case in the near future, particularly if our number of Covid cases continues to drop.

Parents, I strongly encourage you to send your son to school if he is Covid negative or not needing to self isolate.

The medical data continues to show that schools are a very low risk of spreading infection and we are taking very strict health measures here at De La Salle to keep our staff and students safe.

I thank the Parents and families who through forced self isolation have continued to encourage and monitor their son's on-line learning.

Our previous experiences with this form of learning have seen us adapt our programmes of work and both staff and students have worked smarter to refine on-line learning.

Like it or not, on-line learning from home is something that has and will become part of our young men's learning.

The College Senior Leadership Team have kept all unnecessary events, meetings and activities out of our College programmes over the last few weeks so as to allow the Staff and students to completely focus just on their learning programmes, this has meant that the College has been a settled learning environment with little disruption.

After consultation with our Cultural Group leaders, the College will not participate in the Polyfest event this year. We have had very high absentee rates and high numbers of positive Covid cases among our Senior students and Staff over the last three weeks which would have prevented group practices leading up to the Polyfest. We also considered it a health risk to put large numbers of students together in close proximity who would be singing, raising the possibility of infection. Our tutors themselves have also been effected by Covid.

Please continue to inform the College if your son is self isolating at home due to being a positive case or Household Contact. This information will remain private and confidential to the College Nurse and Principal so that we can plan for your son's safe return to school after his isolation period.

From this Friday, the Ministry of Health has reduced the period of self isolation.

Changes to isolation requirements

From **11:59pm today Friday 11 March** isolation requirements for positive cases of COVID-19 and their household contacts will be reduced from 10 to **seven days**.

This change has been made due to up-to-date public health advice, there is a decline in infectiousness of Omicron over time and in most cases, transmission occurs within seven days.

From **11.59pm Friday 11 March**, all cases and household contacts who are currently isolating can end their period of isolation after **Day 7**. Those currently in isolation will not have to complete their Days 8, 9 and 10 of isolation.

The College continues to provide support for families who are unable to leave their homes for essential food and household items. Please inform the College through your son's Homeroom teacher if you require support and we will do our best to assist you. We are experiencing some delays in the delivery of support packages due to the high number of people self isolating who work at our distribution depots.

Stay safe and well.

God Bless

M.Hogarty

Principal