



SOUTH COAST
BAPTIST COLLEGE

30 Gnangara Drive
PO Box 6126,
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reception@scbc.wa.edu.au
www.scbc.wa.edu.au

Dear College Families,

Re: Novel Coronavirus – COVID-19 Further Update

Greetings from your college community. I'm encouraged that we are another day closer to ending the interruption of COVID-19.

This letter update contains six sections:

1. Economic **Support**; looking ahead to helping our families.
2. **Hope** Theory; a practical insight to encouraging high aspirations in this new season of study.
3. State Government **Announcement**; direction for all WA students.
4. **Household guide** for the weeks ahead, in relation to government services and responsibilities; Federal, State, and Local powers.
5. Reliable **Information Sources**; official government websites.
6. **Prayer suggestions** for frontline healthcare staff.

Also included in this letter are messages from the Head of Primary and Head of Secondary.

1. Economic Support

In relation to school fees, our College staff will continue working hard to bring together resources that help SCBC students experience optimal educational support, and academic success. Our commitment to their educational wellbeing remains totally focused. Every staff member is using all available resources to further enrich and strengthen our educational provisions. At the heart of their diligence is a desire to honour God, and valuing our relationship with you.

I spoke to one of our thoughtfully generous parents recently who had given a few toilet rolls to a family in need. The kindness within our community causes me to remember what a privilege it is to share this challenging time together at SCBC. Kindness is positively contagious.

If you experience difficulty, we are here to help **all** SCBC families find a way through the COVID-19 interruption. It will end. In the meanwhile, our relationship with you, and commitment to your children's education remains unwavering. Simply contact Shelley Roberts, Accounts Receivable Officer, on 9540 4407 or via email robertss@scbc.wa.edu.au and we will supportively respond as quick as possible.

The College is supportively sensitive to everyone's circumstances. It's highly likely you know someone who may have lost their livelihood and employment. Whether it be toilet rolls, food supplies, or financial assistance, if our community becomes aware of a need, each of us will do everything we can to help and support each other.

Rigorous Minds | Compassionate Hearts

2. Hope Theory – Encouraging student success in all circumstances

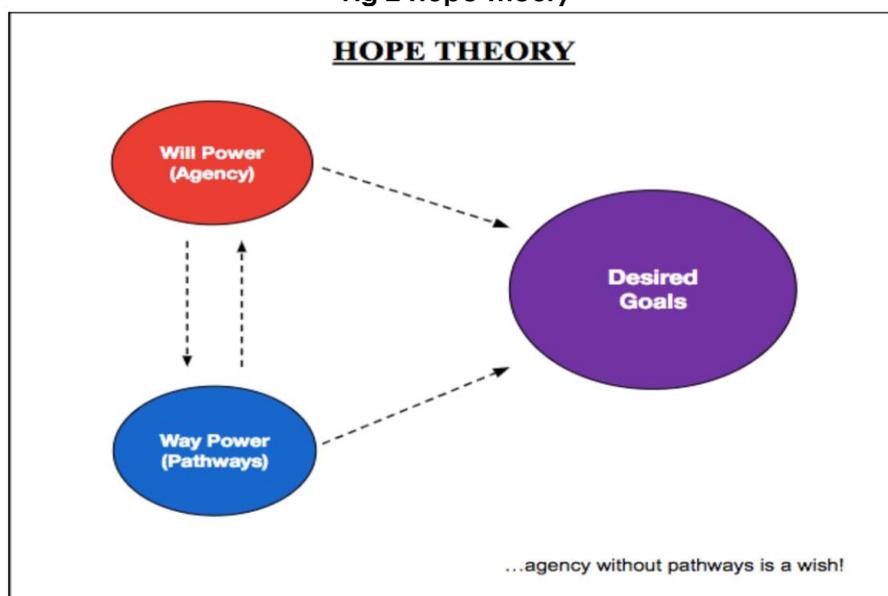
The most recent newsletter focused on the first of four college values: 'Hope'. I shared that hope can be taught to children, and that our college's paradigm of education is through a lens of believing in an always loving God. I was reminded by this recently when given a timely gift by one of our primary students (see below). We can have hope that God is hearing our prayers at this time.

Fig 1 Gift from one of our Primary students



Positive Psychologist Charles Snyder developed a theory that he suggests contributes to improved wellbeing. Thinking of our children in this new chapter of time, Snyder suggests that to achieve a goal (e.g. success in an online class assessment), our students need both a **will** (motivation), and a **way** (pathways, i.e. incremental steps). **Success motivates us to want to experience more success.** Acknowledging every one of our student's circumstances are different, there are a few commonly helpful things we can do. Easiest of all is to support them with **positive encouragement**. They are already skilled in the digital world, so they are well prepared to become successful. Affirming encouragement is likely to help them feel **motivated** (will power). Agency is psychological term for having a way of getting something done. Breaking tasks into the **smaller, incremental steps** that lead towards a goal (e.g. learning new software) creates a more direct pathway to success.

Fig 2 Hope Theory



(Ref: <https://in-training.org/a-case-for-building-hope-in-medicine-17833>)

3. State Government Announcement about Schools

It may help you to know that under the power of the Constitution (State and Commonwealth), education is determined by individual States or Territories. If the Western Australian Premier and/or Minister for Education issues a directive, it is legally binding (enforceable) on all WA schools; public and private. In summary; the following requirements therefore apply to SCBC:

- Consistent with SCBC's previous guidance, from Monday, 30th March, to Friday, 9th April, all children who attend school will continue to be taught. Staff will continue to be on hand to ensure this can occur. As of Monday, we will 'switch' onto using our online platform. This is happening as planned.
- Within the Premier's announcement, we observe the State Government encourages families to keep their children at home, especially if you can access online or other resources for their education to continue.
- Children of parents who need their children to attend school to enable them to maintain employment, and those children in vulnerable families, such as children living with grandparents, are encouraged to continue attend school. This is consistent with SCBC's prior communications.
- Teachers and education assistants will be using the time between 6th – 9th April for on-going professional development. We have already begun preparing for Term 2 and are looking ahead to Terms 3 and 4. This year is just as important for our students as last year.
- Arrangements will be in place to allow students to continue attending school in the last four days of Easter. All SCBC children who need to attend school will be professionally supervised with the same standard of care that you've become familiar with during your time with us.
- Your son/daughter's Head of School (Mr Moses for Primary, and/or Mr Trimble for Secondary) will keep you informed of what we are doing. Both Heads of schools are releasing respective letters today. If you have a children in both parts of the school, you will receive both updates.

You can read the Premier's comments directly at:

<https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/03/Changes-to-government-school-learning-from-Monday.aspx>

4. Household Guide for the Weeks Ahead

Acknowledging we are in uncharted waters, I thought it may be practically helpful to have a heads-up on where you can expect government guidance. Thanks to inheriting the English Westminster system of government, we are governed under powers determined by our Constitution. Below is a summary.

Federal Government Powers (Laws) include:

- **trade and commerce,**
- postal and telecommunications services,
- foreign policy,
- taxation,
- census and statistics,
- weights and measures,
- bankruptcy and insolvency,
- **quarantine,**
- lighthouses, lightships, beacons and buoys,
- fisheries,
- currency,
- copyright,

- marriage,
- **immigration**,
- and defence.

State Government Powers (Laws) include:

- **schools**
- **hospitals**
- roads and railways
- public transport
- utilities such as electricity and water supply
- mining
- agriculture
- forests
- community services
- consumer affairs
- police
- prisons
- and ambulance services

Local Government Powers (Laws) include:

- local roads, footpaths, cycle ways, street signage and lighting,
- waste management, including rubbish collection and recycling,
- parking,
- recreational facilities such as parks, **sports fields** and swimming pools,
- cultural facilities, including **libraries**, art galleries and museums,
- services such as **childcare** and aged care,
- sewerage,
- town planning,
- building approvals and inspections,
- land and coast care programs,
- and pet control.

If interested in Government Powers, you can read more in this link:

<https://peo.gov.au/understand-our-parliament/how-parliament-works/three-levels-of-government/the-roles-and-responsibilities-of-the-three-levels-of-government/>

5. COVID-19: Reliable Information Sources for your family

Western Australian State Government

WA Government – Premier's Media Releases

<https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/03/Changes-to-government-school-learning-from-Monday.aspx>

Government of Western Australia – Department of Health

https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus

WA Department of Health

<https://healthywa.wa.gov.au/coronavirus>

Commonwealth of Australia – Federal Government

Federal Government – Prime Minister's Media Releases

<https://www.pm.gov.au/media>

Australian Government Department of Health

<https://www.health.gov.au>

6. Prayer suggestions for frontline healthcare staff

- *God, please keep them safe and healthy. Keep their families safe and healthy.*
- *God, please help them to be knowledgeable about the diagnosis and treatment of this disease, as well as the changing protocols.*
- *God, please help them to stay clear-minded in the midst of the surrounding panic.*
- *God, please deliver them from anxiety for their own loved ones (aging parents, children, spouses, roommates).*
- *God, please give them compassion for every patient in their care.*
- *God, please provide for them financially, especially if they fall ill and are unable to work.*
- *God, please help Christians in health care to exhibit extraordinary peace, so that many would ask about the reason for their hope. Give them opportunities to share the gospel's good news.*

With encouragement and support,



Mr Des Mitchell
PRINCIPAL

27th March 2020



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Message from the Head of Primary

Dear Primary School Families,

As you are likely aware the West Australian State Government has announced changes to how your child will learn while the Government works towards minimising the spread of COVID-19 in the community. The Minister for Education has also indicated that staff need to continue to prepare for a different way of teaching and learning in Term 2. This email is to provide you with further updates regarding this term and preparations for teaching and learning for Term 2.

Yesterday the Premier announced *all public schools* in Western Australia will remain open until Thursday, 9th April 2020, the end of Term 1. From next Monday, 30th March 2020, all Primary students will have full access to our online resources and programs. Students on-campus will be completing the same content as those that are learning from home. Specialist subjects will also be available on-line from next week as well. Classroom teachers will be recording a daily welcome for their lessons next week that will be played at school as well as home. Please note that the on-line learning will combine set lessons and some independent activities. This is part of the program also considers those families who may be sharing a device for learning at home.

Today we had 73% off our Primary School students in self-isolation completing on-line learning. If you have any queries regarding on-line learning please direct them to your child's classroom teacher. If you require further assistance in this area, please email Mrs Jo Gudgeon (Kindergarten to Year 2) on gudgeonj@scbc.wa.edu.au or myself (Years 3 to 6) mosesa@scbc.wa.edu.au.

Next week from Monday, we will be combining year groups in the Primary School. Students on campus will be completing the same on-line learning as those students who are self-isolating at home. The Education Minister indicated yesterday that parents and carers who need to send their children to school due to maintaining their employment or being in vulnerable situations can send their children to school in the final week of term. From Monday, 6th April 2020, we would request that families consider completing set online learning from home, unless they are in a situation where conditions require their student to attend across the final week of Term 1.

Although most students aren't on campus our College wellbeing support team is still available and ready to assist your families. This will take place through:

- The provision of content and resources for staff to share via 'Teams' (Years 3 to 6) or 'See saw' (Kindergarten to Year 2).
- Continuance of the provision of individual meetings at school or via phone as organised with parents and in-line with current guidelines.

- Answering questions and helping with specific wellbeing needs, please contact one of the following team members:

Jon Lituri (Deputy Head Wellbeing) – liturij@scbc.wa.edu.au

Amanda (Chaplain) – amanda@rockingham.org.au

Nicola Campbell (Defence School Mentor) – nicola.campbell@scbc.wa.edu.au

Wayne Stevenson (Psychologist) - wstevenson2@bigpond.com

We know that many positive outcomes can emerge from challenging situations. We had the 120 Year 1 to 6 students at the College on the basketball courts this morning, socially distancing themselves, to start the day with some Praise and Worship, in place of our Friday morning Assembly.

Our College theme for this year is 'Celebrating Community'. When life does return to normal at some point, we will be looking at starting our first day together with 400 Year 1 to 6 students on the basketball courts and celebrating our Primary School community returning together. Parents will be most welcome to stay and watch, when this takes place.

Once again thank you to our families for your support and kind words towards our staff. We will be working together to provide optimal learning opportunities for your child across the weeks ahead, regardless of their physical location.

Please note, on Monday, 30th March 2020, the canteen will be closed. Our sincere apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Kind Regards,



Anthony Moses
HEAD OF PRIMARY

27th March 2020



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Message from the Head of Secondary

Dear Secondary School Families,

As we transition on Monday into a new way of schooling at South Coast Baptist College, we want to make sure that the same high standards of behaviour, application and dedication to learning are supported.

We would also like to take this opportunity to highlight the importance of education. While the health and safety of our community are our highest priorities, the actions of our combined governments to choose to keep schools open for as long as possible speaks to the importance of education to our society. If, as the COVID-19 situation continues to develop, students were to disengage and forfeit weeks or even months of learning, the impacts would be significant. At this time, more than ever, we ask that students, parents and guardians to partner with us to ensure that our students get the best education possible.

Please view our *Remote Learning Guide for Students and Parents* by clicking on the following link to our website: [Secondary-Remote-Learning-Student-Guide](#). This clearly outlines expectations for student routines and behaviour to support a successful transition to online learning.

Please note, on Monday, 30th March 2020, the canteen will be closed. Our sincere apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Blessings,

James Trimble
HEAD OF SECONDARY
B.A. (Hons); Dip. Ed.; Med (Ed. Leadership)

27th March 2020