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## RE: HOME LEARNING EXPECTATIONS – A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

The current situation surrounding COVID-19 is extremely unusual and unsettling. We have been most grateful for your positive support and understanding, with the majority of you choosing to keep your students at home this last week. We understand the predicament which some of you working in “Essential Services” categories are currently facing. We will continue to provide supervision for your children, leading up to the school holiday period. Public schools will be closing early for students. ***This does not apply to Port School, as we have already made the transition to home learning and do not want to lose momentum.***

At present, most of our students have been given work-at-home packs, along with a timetable of when they are to work on each subject. Staff will use these times to support students via phone and message services. We are currently working hard to find the most viable way to support students in an online capacity, and we will keep you informed of our timeframe for introducing an online component. Please be assured, we will give you all the support you need in order to make this transition.

We will be asking families who have the means, to occasionally bring completed work to School, and to pick up new work. If this entails you catching public transport in order to do this, please get in touch and we will arrange to pick up and deliver student work to you. This arrangement will stay in place unless restrictions on movement are enforced.

Communication is the key to successfully moving forward with our students' education.

All students have a mentor staff member. I ask you to keep in touch with this person. They will assist if you are having any difficulties, or need support in getting your child settled into a study routine.

***Port School will remain open and will continue to offer educational and pastoral care support to students up until the end of Term 1 (ie: Thursday 9 April).***

Staff and students will be on Term 1 break from Friday 10 April. During the break, occasional contact will be made to check on how students and families are doing, and to offer support to any student who wants to continue their studies during this period. Staff will also be using this break to develop resources and prepare for Term 2.

I cannot read the future, but I feel that it is unlikely that students will be able to return to school in Term 2. Therefore, I strongly advise that you get your child into a routine of doing educational work during school hours. This routine will break up their day and help give it purpose.

### ***Good home school guidelines include:***

- Be ready to work at 8:45am.
- Maintain timetabled break times.
- Maintain regular sleep patterns.
- No phones or social media during school hours.
- Carers should be available to support students with their work.
- Students should be available to take support calls from staff during school hours.
- If you are not getting support, ring the School.
- Carers should please monitor social media to see that it is positive. Toxic social media will affect your whole home.

This is a huge adjustment, and a learning curve for us all. It can only be achieved and improved upon through good communication.

Please call your designated support teacher or me if you have any questions or concerns.

I will keep you informed of any changes as they occur.

Keep safe.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Barry Finch', written in a cursive style.

Barry Finch  
Principal

29 March 2020