



Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: COVID 19 IMPACT ON SCHOOLS IN TERM 3

As we begin Term 3, we would have liked our schools to be operating in a typical way. However, predictions are that the rate of COVID-19 infections will triple over the next few weeks due to new variants, and influenza will continue to affect many people. These very high infection rates of COVID-19 and the flu are predicted to last for some time and possibly beyond October.

These infection rate predictions and widespread teacher shortages mean many school staff are likely to be significantly impacted and it may be a challenge for our schools to operate normally throughout Term 3. At times, schools may only be able to supervise combined classes, supervise specific year levels only, or may even need to close for most or all students for a period of time.

The safety and well-being of students and staff is and always has been our first priority. Catholic Education Canberra Goulburn aims to do everything we can to ensure our schools remain open and every teacher is available to teach classes. This means we are directing our schools to take several measures to make our school communities as COVID-safe as possible, to limit the opportunity for the spread of COVID and to ensure that all teachers are available to teach their classes.

As well as the basic COVID-safe practices that have been in place for some time, Catholic Education will request that schools limit movement of students and staff. This means that excursions, camps and many extra-curricular activities may not take place this term as we focus on keeping our schools open and limit staff being out of school, thereby maximising their availability to teach classes.

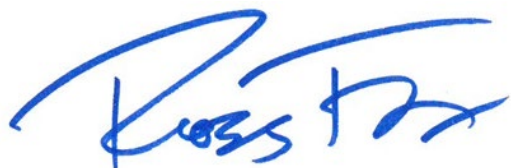
We acknowledge that some families will be disappointed when extra-curricular activities and excursions do not go ahead as planned. However, I hope you understand our priority to continue classroom teaching and provide appropriate supervision.

We once again emphasise it is important any student who is unwell or has any COVID or flu like symptoms should not attend school until they are well.

While we continue to live in disruptive and uncertain times, we are most grateful that our school communities, especially our Principals and their staff, are doing everything they can to support the education and wellbeing of the students. We are grateful for their efforts that go above and beyond, each and every day, as they face the challenges that living with COVID brings.

We are also most thankful for your support as parents and carers during these times.

Good wishes.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ross Fox', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Ross Fox
DIRECTOR
18 July 2022