Thank you to the parents (Jo, Julie, Bec, Diane, Narelle, Sarah and Simon) who joined Adam, Renee and I as we sought to gather important information from our parent community regarding ‘at home learning’.

I updated the group about what our school has been doing, will be proposing and Adam provided as much of an IT update as possible.

Reflections from the group included:

* Do not overload students and parents with at home learning while at the same time ensure that students have access to other resources / on line links for those who want extension.
* Support for a three session model at home to include a literacy and numeracy focus each day with some specialist inquiry / learning in the afternoons. The school to provide other suggestions that will complement the afternoon learning.
* Parents do not, under current circumstances, expect a report in late term two. Ian to investigate and publish DfE recommendations which are yet to be released. A suggestion that students write their own, reflecting on their own learning. Our year seven community has used this approach previously to compliment teacher reports.
* No student will repeat a year as a consequence of this COVID-19 disruption. This was my answer when asked the above question. However there are likely to be many discussions about students who are at risk with their learning.
* Parents thanked the school for the high quality level of communication with regular posts to the blog. I will do my best to answer any questions from parents with regard to my COVID-19 updates. I will continue to post as often as required.
* The school will publish details regarding term two’s at home / at school learning next week, with each PLT (year level learning teams) deciding on what stationery items will be sent home. These will be posted and paid for by the department. This does not mean a series of worksheets. All learning tasks will either be posted on Seesaw or on Teams.
* We will investigate ways of providing helpful on line tutorials and teaching tips. It is our intention that all staff read one book (parts of a book for upper primary) once a week primarily aimed at each teachers class. These will be located on our YouTube channel which students can access as they please. *(I better get Rocky on board and read ‘Harry the Dirty Dog’!)*
* Videos will be uploaded by Christie or Adam to the schools YouTube channel. All videos will be marked as private or unlisted which means that they do not get found by the YouTube/Google search function. There will be a link provided to appropriate viewers via Seesaw, Teams, Email or Blog.
* We stressed the importance of the wellbeing of all staff but also students and parents. We recognise that at home learning will place a great deal of pressure on parents, particularly those parents also working from home.
* We will continue to refer to our new approach in term two as ‘at school learning’ and ‘at home learning’. It is not schooling at home. Your home is not a school but rather a place where you and your child / children can do your best to bond together and learn what is on offer.
* Parents suggested that students may wish to develop their own schedule for ‘at home learning’ in consultation with their parents. This is very likely to encourage ownership of their learning schedule.
* Parents spoke of the myriad of ‘other’ informal tasks that are so valuable if learning at home: such as walking the dog, cooking, gardening, helping with housework, the list is endless. We will provide many suggestions in the very near future. Parents could also by posting on Facebook or through our Blog.
* I will update parents by the middle of next week regarding our ‘at school, at home’ learning details. It will include an overall statement about this upcoming challenge.
* I have been asked what the best thing that parents should do at school or at home. I have repeatedly said that it is a parent’s choice but we welcome any child, in any year, under any circumstance, to attend next term.
* Parents are asked to contact their child’s teacher in the first instance regarding any issues with regard to learning.
* From a technical perspective we have identified ‘champions’ in each PLT who will be able to assist with IT concerns. Adam and Christie will be back up when required.
* SSOs will check in with those students at risk with regard to their learning or engagement, as will members of the leadership team.

I will keep providing updates.

Ian Filer

Principal