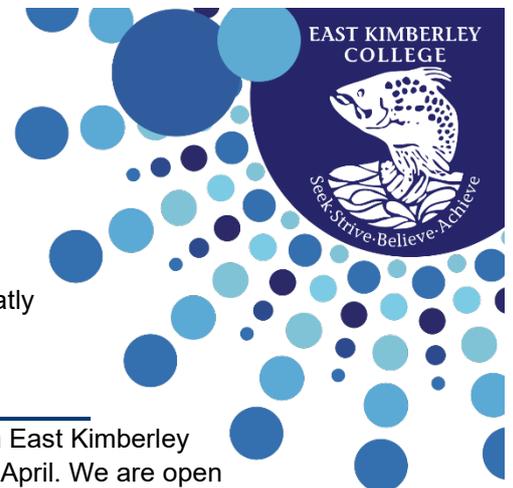


COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update 8

East Kimberley College Families

21 April, 2020



As we accommodate the ever-changing landscape placed before us, your recognition of the magnitude of change required with each announcement is greatly appreciated.

COVID-19 Curriculum Continuity Update

In response to the most recent Government announcement, it is with enthusiasm East Kimberley College supports and encourages the return of all students as of Wednesday 29 April. We are open for business and will be resuming all timetabled classes face-to-face as normal, across both primary and secondary areas of the College.

As a result of the recent announcement, the comprehensive distance education model developed and prepared during Week 10 of Term 1 has been modified. Significant staffing and timetable restructures have been required, and so too, changes to our distance education resource distribution.

In order to ensure the staff of EKC are able to maintain the highest standard of curriculum delivery, and in turn provide the best possible education to our number one asset, the decision has been made to withdraw the "live online" mode of learning from our distance education model. The delivery of lessons via WebEx to those electing to learn from home, will no longer occur.

The College will provide work packages and online resources via Connect, in addition to the Department of Education [Learning @ Home](#) website, for those choosing to keep their child/ren at home. This decision has been made in light of the increased number of students who will be attending the College for a regular face-to-face education. The numbers derived from the most recent survey we have administered has cemented this decision and we trust you will respect this course of action.

There will be no provision for part-time face-to-face education in the new model being implemented by EKC. Kindy students will continue to attend on the days they were previously scheduled. There will be an expectation that students will either attend face-to-face full-time at the College, or learn from home by accessing learning materials via Connect and/or hard copy packages.

Learning from Home Academic Resources

For students learning from home during Term 2, learning materials will be accessible via CONNECT which can be downloaded and either completed electronically or printed off to be completed by hand. For families who do not have access to a device or the internet to access these materials via CONNECT, there will be the option for a hard copy "work pack". For those choosing to keep their children at home from the beginning of Term 2, you will be contacted by phone at the commencement of Term 2 to confirm your requirements.

Procedures for the collection and return of student work packs for students learning via distance education at home, will be communicated to families prior to this process commencing at the end of Week 1.

Students learning via distance education at home will be required to access the Department of Education [Learning at Home](#) website during Week 1.

Work packs for Weeks 2 and 3 will be available for collection on Friday of Week 1 (1 May). Details of the collection and return procedures will follow.

School Playgrounds

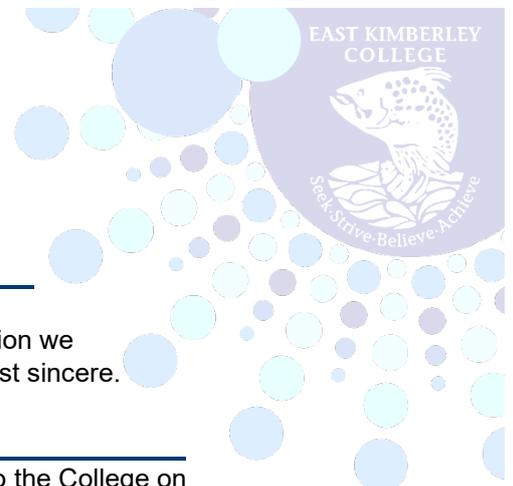
Our ECE playground equipment will be re-opened in Week 1 and other playgrounds throughout the College as we establish an increased cleaning regime over the coming weeks.



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Canteen

Our canteen will re-open as of Week 2, thanks to our committed and dedicated Canteen Manager Nikki Lapsley and her assistant Jo Tengapera. The appreciation we have for the support provided by Nikki and Jo during these uncertain times is most sincere.

Health and Hygiene

Strict cleaning regimes have continued in preparation for the return of students to the College on Wednesday 29 April. Our playground equipment used by students during break times will be cleaned following each break. We have engaged the services of a local business to ensure that our playgrounds are properly sanitised and disinfected. The product being sourced is an industrial grade disinfectant that can be used as a spray, liquid/wipe or fog. The playgrounds will be sprayed twice a day to ensure the safety of our students.

We will have additional cleaners onsite during the day to undertake continuous cleaning regimes. All high contact surfaces will be regularly cleaned throughout the day.



We will continue to have hand soap and paper towel readily available at every wash station, as this is the most proven method to keep the Coronavirus at bay. Every classroom and high traffic area in the school will have access to Hand Sanitiser which was sourced from another local business.

Our Secondary Science Department have also produced a sanitiser spray to be known as "East Kimberley Cleanser". This product will be used exclusively throughout the College to sanitise both high contact surfaces, and also by students who will be required to sanitise their hands upon entry to classrooms.

Our sincere thanks to our wonderful Science Team who have engineered this project. The sanitiser made has come from the recommended recipe from the World Health Organisation.

Further Preventative Measures

The College will be implementing the following preventative measures to assist in the decrease of the transmission of COVID-19:

- Implementing social distancing measures, encouraging students to maintain 1.5m physical distancing when entering and exiting classrooms.
- Providing 1.5m physical distancing in classrooms where practicable.
- Spraying all high contact surfaces following each class, using the "East Kimberley Cleanser" produced by our Science Department.
- Not permitting parents and visitors to enter the College grounds, and requesting parents drop students at the gate.
- Continuing not to conduct excursions, assemblies, camps and interschool activities.

Government-run Residential Colleges – Kununurra Hostel

Health advice is to keep boarding facilities closed at this time. East Kimberley College students who reside at the Hostel and have returned home will have access to continuity of learning via the provision of work packages from the College.

Student Stationery

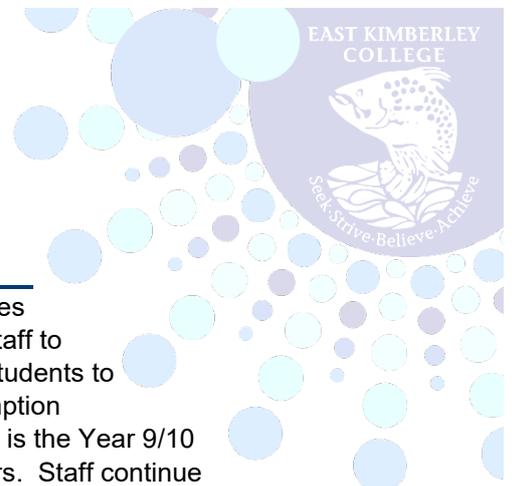
Students are continued to be encouraged to bring their own stationery and school bags to school to avoid the use of shared equipment.



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Cooking and Hygiene Practices

Appropriate hygiene practices must be monitored and administered for all activities involving the preparation of food. Students must be supervised at all times and staff to ensure safe hygiene practises are being followed. Under no circumstances are students to prepare food for other students and must only prepare food for their own consumption (i.e. Breakfast Clubs, emergency lunches at academies, etc). The only exception is the Year 9/10 International Foods course which requires students to work collaboratively in pairs. Staff continue to have the capacity to prepare food for students, however, please be sure to exercise safe food handling practices.

The Commencement of Term 2

As planned, East Kimberley College staff will engage in a School Development Day on Tuesday 28 April. The beginning of Term 2 for students will therefore be Wednesday 29 April. All students attending school as normal from the beginning of Term 2 are asked to attend their usual classroom on the first day of Term 2.



School Bus Service

The school bus services will operate as normal as of Wednesday 29 April.

North Regional TAFE Update

North Regional TAFE will provide us with an update once they have established their intended course of action. Once notified, we will email parents of students attending TAFE directly once a plan is communicated to the College.

Principal's Words

I express my heartfelt appreciation to those of you who continue to make contact with the College and recognise and praise the resilience and adaptability of the staff of East Kimberley College, as we accommodate the ever-changing landscape placed before us. Your recognition of the magnitude of change required with each announcement is greatly appreciated.

As conveyed in the previous update, families may still exercise choice in relation to what they believe is in the best interests of their child/ren during the COVID-19 pandemic and therefore, you may elect to send your child/ren to school for a regular face-to-face education, or alternatively, you may continue to keep them at home. All Year 11 and Year 12 students are strongly encouraged to attend school for face-to-face classes. Please ensure you make your intentions known by completing the [survey](#) about your child's attendance at the College in Term 2 to assist us to cement our planning.

We cannot be everything to everyone and we cannot please everyone all the time, and that is not our intention. Our intention is to support our staff to continue delivering high quality learning opportunities within the classroom for your child/children, and subsequently encourage all students to return to the College to engage in those opportunities.

We thank you in anticipation for your support of the College and its decision making as the Government progresses towards a full return to normal education.

We look forward with great anticipation to the return of students to the College next Wednesday 29 April for the commencement of Term 2.

Kate Wilson
Principal

