

24th March 2020



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Dear Parents/Carers,

After another few days and several major Government announcements, we find ourselves in a seemingly new world once again. Whether we're rolling with the punches, taking it one day at a time or flying by the seat of our pants, I think you appreciate my sentiments.

Firstly, I want to acknowledge two critical groups of people in our community. The staff team are first. In the midst of an unprecedented global pandemic, the Encounter staff have been stoic, remarkable and flexible. I have always appreciated who they are and how they operate, but in tough times they have risen over and above the occasion. The juggle of having 50% of students in classes and 50% at home is no easy task and they are doing this with humility, diligence and hearts of service. I know many of you have experienced this first-hand in recent days and I am so proud to lead a team of people who continue to put kids first.

I'd also like to thank you, the families of Encounter. There has been a constant trail of emails or office visits affirming our ongoing attempts to communicate clearly and openly with you and as we do our best to protect your children while still providing a rich learning environment. Please know how much this is appreciated. Throughout the days, weeks and months ahead, communication will be king and queen. Although I expect our learning environment to change dramatically in a matter of days, our commitment to you is to maintain a virtual open-door policy so that you continue to feel connected to us. There are numerous meetings being held each day to ensure we can deliver on this promise and we invite feedback as the journey continues so we can serve you as best we can.

A few reminders which we ask you to adhere to in the interests of community health and communication, as follows:

- If you're home indefinitely, please let us know via email to admin@encounter.sa.edu.au;
- If your children are still physically attending school, please ensure they are well if they are to attend. We are not suggesting every child with a sniffly nose has contracted COVID-19, but in such a heightened situation I'm sure you can appreciate the importance of this message;
- For all families, please adhere to the social distancing expectations set down by the Government. How quickly we 'flatten the curve' will require a 'we not me' approach.

Thank you again for your supportive, uplifting and rational response to the situation we find ourselves in. Your kids are loved, we value each and every member of the Encounter Family and we will remain united and strong with each passing day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelvin Grivell".

Kelvin Grivell
Principal

Looks like school, feels like home...
encounter.sa.edu.au

