

Tuesday 18th January, 2022

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Dear Encounter Families

Happy New Year to you all!

Although there is a great deal of discussion and debate about the commencement of the 2022 school year and the far-reaching impact on our community, I encourage you to look to what we might celebrate in the year ahead. I remain confident we will reflect on this year with fond memories, stories of joy and success for our children and clearly see how our resilience and support for each other has enabled us to remain united and connected as a community. We can do this!

While this letter is likely to be the first of many in the coming weeks, I will aim to keep you as updated as possible. Please keep in mind the considerable dialogue and decision making that takes place in the days following an announcement from our Premier or elsewhere in the media. After consultation with the Association of Independent Schools (AISSA), our regional Lutheran Schools office (LESNW) and amongst principals, we then need to determine how to best implement the rules or changes according to our own community. There are countless factors and nuances taken into consideration prior to formulating a letter such as this one, but please be assured we remain committed to keeping Encounter students safe and engaging with their learning and each other as best we can.

The most critical information for the start of the school year is as follows:

On Monday 31st January and Tuesday 1st February, only students who cannot be adequately supervised by a parent/carer are able to attend school. Students in attendance will be supervised by co-educators. We require any families in this position to register via sue.zitterbart@encounter.sa.edu.au by the morning of Friday 28th January.

From Wednesday 2nd February, students in *Foundation, Year 1, Year 7, Year 8 and Year 12* will commence their year via face-to-face learning at school. An online teaching option will not be provided for these students. If your child will be absent for any reason during this period, please contact Administration.

All other year levels (Years 2-6 and Years 9-11) will commence their year via online learning for the remainder of Week 1-2. If you need to work and send your child to school, we also ask you to register your child's attendance at Encounter via sue.zitterbart@encounter.sa.edu.au by the morning of Friday, 28th January. Your child will be supervised by co-educators as they engage with online learning, as teachers of these year levels will be fully engaged with the majority of their class.

For new Year 2-6 families, a training time for using Seesaw on iPads will be held at 10am on Friday 28th January. This will allow you to support your child as they engage with online learning for the first eight days of the school year. A collection time for iPads for ALL Year 2-6 students will be between 10am-2pm on Friday 28th January, alongside the kiss n drop.

For new students in Years 9-11 and current students in Year 10, collection of laptops can be made between 8:30-10am on Friday 28th January. Further support to access your device will be provided by Paul MacLeod as needed.

As more information, changes or clarity is provided, please know this will be shared with you as soon as possible. As we prepare for the first week of school in its most unique form, I will certainly contact you again before the end of next week.

Sincerely



Kelvin Grivell
Principal

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