

Dear Families,

The Queensland Premier announced this morning that whilst the current 3 day lockdown in Greater Brisbane will conclude at 6pm tonight, [further restrictions](#) will be in place until 1.00am on Friday 22 January.

One aspect of these restrictions is the requirement to wear a mask in indoor spaces, including a workplace, if you are unable to socially distance (1.5m from others).

As the current restrictions are planned to conclude on Friday 22 January, and many schools do not recommence until Monday 25 January, no direction was provided on whether students are expected to wear a facemask in a school setting.

This morning the College Executive met via Zoom to consider the current health context in the Greater Brisbane area and to discuss any changes which may need to be implemented to ensure we embrace both the purpose and spirit of these restrictions.

We spent some time reviewing the logistical realities of students over the age of 12 wearing a facemask at school, and considerations relating to staff, parents and visitors wearing facemasks in a school context.

As a school community, we recognise how important it is to commence this academic year in a positive and supportive manner, and to minimise anxiety and concern for students, staff and parents. We also recognise the importance of the relationships that are formed between students, staff and parents in the many events that are held during the first few weeks of a new academic year.

After prayerful consideration and discussion, the following decisions have been made for the start of the 2021 academic year at Redlands College:

- Monday 18 January to Friday 22 January will be declared as student free professional learning days.
- [Students will commence school on Monday 25 January](#)
- The Commencement Service Planned for Monday 18 January will be cancelled and an event held later in the term for Student Captains and parents.
- [Open Classroom events planned for Friday 15 January have been postponed until Friday 22 January.](#)
- [Prep orientation sessions planned for Monday 18 January to Friday 22 January will continue](#), with further details to be provided by the Head of Junior School.

We recognise that within our College community there will be a range of differing views related to our current health context. The decision to postpone the start of the academic year by one week, from Monday 18 January to Monday 25 January, has been made to ensure we are actively supporting the spirit and intent of the community restrictions in place in the Greater Brisbane area over the next 10 days, and to provide the safest possible environment for our community.

The College academic year will continue as printed for the remainder of the year, unless further changes are necessitated by health regulations.

College staff will be using the week of 18-22 January for professional learning and development, to ensure we are well prepared for the range of circumstances which may arise during the 2021 academic year.

We pray for God's blessing of health and safety on your family, and look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday 25 January.

Warm Regards

Andrew

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