



St. Stephen's International School

"Where East meets West"

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SISB/SO/205/20

27 April 2020

Dear Parents

As we start the second week of learning in Term 3, and we all start to settle into a routine, I would like to thank you for your patience and cooperation so far. The support from parents has been tremendous, as we constantly adapt, and develop as a community to meet the challenges of online learning, and improve the experience of the students. There are different challenges for each age level and, in many cases, for individuals within the age levels, and it is up to us to find solutions to all of these, which we are doing.

It has been a hectic start to the term, with a lot of online communication and many online meetings. There have also been the occasional face to face meetings, with both current and prospective parents and students, which have been very welcome; a sense of normality.

Normality is not quite with us yet, though, nor may it be for several weeks. A meeting with the Minister of Education last Thursday indicated that schools would not be opening on site, for students, in the first weeks of May, but that there would be a review on 15 May, and every two weeks after that. This has still to be confirmed in writing, but we expect that confirmation to arrive shortly. We are though still hopeful of a return to school this term, with an easing of restrictions starting to appear across the globe, and are already planning on how we might do this in a safe and careful way.

In the meantime, though, online learning continues, and continues according to the current school calendar; there are no plans to change the term dates, despite requests.

On the calendar this week is a Year 7 online parents evening which is a good chance for Year 7 parents to talk about their child's experience, working from home, and what strategies can be employed to make sure their progress and enjoyment is maximized.

Next week on the calendar a reminder that Monday, 4 May, is **Coronation Day** and the school will be on holiday; a chance for families to draw breath, and enjoy a family day together, without the demands of work and school.

I wish you and your families a good week ahead

With my best wishes

John Rolfe