

Communique for Parents/Carers: 6th April 2020

Dear parents/carers,

as you are aware, due to the Covid-19 situation, we are facing decisions about how to continue teaching and learning in this unprecedented situation.

At this stage, we still do not know what Term 2 may look like, but we are preparing for online learning to commence in Term 2, in the event that the Department for Education directs schools to deliver learning through an online model. Should this be the case, we will confirm this through SMS on the first day of Term 2.

The other unknown factor is the length of time for which online learning may be required. We will notify you through SMS of the timeline for resumption of our face to face classes, once the Department advises us that it is safe to resume them.

In the likely event of online learning in Term 2, all our staff will be working at our Torrens Rd site, to deliver online learning to our students, at the usual lesson time. In this scenario, students will be learning at home, and teachers will be at school, delivering lessons at the usual lesson time.

We understand that not all parents, especially those who work in essential services, may be able to be home to supervise students. Should you require your child to attend face-to-face lessons during this period, please note that they will need to attend at our Torrens Rd site, not at their usual teaching centre. Please inform us by 12:00pm Thursday 9th April if you require your child to attend face-to-face lessons. If we do not hear from you, we assume that your child will be learning from home and engaging with online language learning, as described below.

Should the Government decree a total lockdown and require teachers to work from home, they will be delivering online lessons to their students from their homes.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we get used to this new way of operating. We have already learnt a great deal in a short space of time, and no doubt we will get better at it with time.

What will online learning look like for School of Languages classes?

Learning online from home is a different experience to learning in a classroom.

Edmodo is the common communication platform that all teachers will be using. If you are not yet signed up, please do so. Email the teacher (the email address is available on our website, in the Contact Us section). In addition, teachers may be using other tools to enable and support online interaction (eg Zoom, Skype, Google, etc) – this will vary from teacher to teacher and language to language.

Each class' Edmodo page already has the Year Overview and the Term or Semester Plan. The Weekly Lesson Plan, which outlines what the requirements will be for that lesson, is uploaded to Edmodo each week prior to the lesson.

Our expectations during this period of online learning in Term 2 are as follows:

- **Learning expectations:**

- Students will need to be prepared at the beginning of the lesson, with all the stationery and resources that they need
- Students will check Edmodo, go through the Weekly Lesson Plan, and follow all instructions therein. The Weekly Lesson Plan will indicate what instruction and activities will be required, how these are to be done, and what the timelines are. It will also indicate which interactive online platform is to be used (eg Zoom, Skype, WebEx, etc), and for which parts of the lesson.
- Students will not be required to be online for the full length of the lesson. In fact, there may be times when an online presence is not required or not possible. Email and phone communications will be important additional communication vehicles.
- The teacher will advise the students of what they will be required to do, each week, depending on the learning that is planned for that week. Therefore, participation in the lesson may look different each week.
- Students will keep up to date with their work, and submit any work as required on time.
- We are still waiting on advice from the SACE Board and the International Baccalaureate Organisation regarding whether they will make changes to Year 12 requirements, particularly in relation to end of year exams and procedures.

- **Attendance and participation expectations:**

- Teachers will mark the roll at the end of the lesson, (rather than at the beginning). You will be notified via SMS if your child has not participated in the lesson.
- During online lessons, students are expected to be on time, to respectfully engage with the teacher and their peers, and to actively participate in the learning.
- Please notify us, through our usual notification processes, if your child is going to be absent from the lesson, and the reason for their absence.
- We will notify you if the teacher is sick and there is a lesson cancellation.
- In the event of a total lockdown, our school office will be closed. Please notify the teacher of an absence via email, and respond to any SMS via email (not via SMS).
- Information about how to access Edmodo is on our school website, and has been provided to students. Should there be problems with access to Edmodo (or any online learning platform that is used), please contact the teacher who can organise for learning material to be emailed or sent home via post.

How parents can help

We are all learners on this journey, and we are going down a path that has never been travelled before. We have never taught in an online learning mode before; and you as parents and carers have not had to supervise and support your children to this extent before.

We know that you will be doing your best to support your child's learning. Please do not be hard on yourselves if things do not work out as planned. There are likely to be glitches; and indeed we should expect them.

We are very much aware that technology may not always work when we need it to. We will do our best to ensure that no matter what, our students will still be able to continue with their learning.

Please find below a checklist of things you can do to support your child's learning in this new environment:

- Support your child to be ready for their lesson at the usual lesson time, with the stationery and resources that they need
- Go through their Weekly Lesson Plan with them, and check that they are on task with all the activities they are required to undertake
- Check feedback that the teacher is providing to your child and discuss it with them
- Praise your child's efforts
- Do not do their work from them
- Encourage your child to email their teacher for additional explanations or elaborations
- Contact the teacher via email if you have any concerns. Please be aware that the vast majority of our teachers work part-time, and therefore there may be a delay in responding to you.
- You may wish to visit the department's new online curriculum portal [Our Learning SA](#). This is an online collection of education materials across all learning areas which has been developed by department curriculum managers and expert teachers.

Please refer to the next page for contact information.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Lia Tedesco
Principal

Key School Contacts

Parents/carers should make contact via email with the appropriate staff member as soon as any learning or attendance issues arise. Email addresses for all staff are available on our school website: www.schooloflanguages.sa.edu.au

Initial concerns

Contact the language teacher.

Ongoing concerns

Contact the relevant Co-ordinator:

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- Arabic, Auslan, Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese: Matt Brown
- Afrikaans, French, Italian, Khmer, Spanish: Sonia Zocchi

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- Arabic, Auslan, Afrikaans, French, German, Italian, Spanish: Ivana Quadrelli
- Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese: Lucia Gentilcore
- Dinka, Nepali, Persian, Pitjantjatjara: Ben Anderson
- Bosnian, Croatian, Khmer, Polish, Punjabi, Serbian: Halina Pietrzak

Additional contacts

SACE/IB: Halina Pietrzak

International students: Lucia Gentilcore

Adult students: Ben Anderson

IT support: Rita Evdokiou, Afrora Mehmeti

Business Manager: Moemen Omar

Assistant Principal: Teaching and Learning: Adriana Basic

Assistant Principal: Student and Staff services: Anne Reuter

Assistant Principal: Public Relations: Maribel Coffey

Principal: Lia Tedesco

Further Information

Covid-19 infoline: 1800 253 787 (8:00am – 8:00pm, every day)

Covid-19 website: www.sa.gov.au/covid-19

SA Health website: www.sahealth.sa.gov.au

Department for Education website: www.education.sa.gov.au

SACE Board website: www.sace.sa.edu.au