



27 April 2020

Assalaamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuhu

Dear Parents and Students,

Remote Learning- We are in this together

As we round out our first full week of Remote Learning in Term 2, I wanted to take the time to reflect, to introflect and to look towards the future, not only for our students, but for us as a community.

A tribute to our Educators

I must begin by highlighting the truly tremendous effort that our educators have put in to transforming the curriculum. In a matter of days, our teachers, along with the support and admin staff have completely reimagined what it is to teach and to learn. They have done this without question and without complaint, to ensure that your children have a continuous education, amidst this worldwide pandemic.

Words seem inadequate to express the gratitude I have for the dedicated educators who are working tirelessly each and every day. What our teachers and support staff have done and continue to do is unparalleled and I would ask that you take a moment to thank your child's teachers, when you can. And please, never forget their dedication in this time and always.

Ramadan 2020

As we move into this most Holy month of Ramadan, I want to acknowledge the strength and the tenacity of our community. Ramadan is such a special time at our school and it is with great sadness that we cannot come together as we normally would. Rather, we will observe Ramadan in our homes, and with our families. I am forever humbled by the love and graciousness I see when I connect with our students and families, and I look forward to seeing how you are all observing Ramadan throughout May.

College Contactless Iftar

In the spirit of Ramadan, and to help bring our community together, we are hosting our *contactless* annual *Iftar* event on **Friday 1 May 2020**. As a College staff, we will join together to prepare meals and package them up. We invite our wider College community to attend the College from **1:30pm on Friday**, where you will be presented with pre-packaged meals that you can take home and share with your families. Please **remain in your vehicle**, and drive to the pickup/drop-off zone where we will pass your

meals in to you. In the spirit of generosity in this testing time, please take only what you need and **a maximum limit of 4 packs** will apply.

Remote Learning Reflection

Remote learning has gotten off to a tremendous start here at AICC. Like all things new, the beginning of the week saw us face some challenges but we have overcome them with gusto.

In looking at our engagement, to date we have, on average **85% of students engaging** directly with their teachers daily. This is excellent and a far higher engagement level than almost every other school.

Recording Attendance

Under the remote learning model, students are marked as "present" if they engage with the school and there is evidence of learning. This means that students (or parents) must make contact with the classroom teacher each morning, preferably before 9am so that students can be marked as "present" for the day.

Learning Schedules

Last week we provided every student with a remote learning schedule. This works to provide students with structure in their day, as well as times when they can video conference with their classroom teachers. Most schedules finish at midday, whilst in some classes, teachers have provided structure for the whole school day. Let me be clear that children need only engage in Remote Learning for **2.5-3.5 hours a day**. This is ample time given the unique circumstances we all find ourselves in.

As we move into the holy observance of Ramadan, I recognize the need for greater flexibility in Learning Schedules. Please, as parents, use your discretion and judgment and modify your child's day to suit what you are doing as a family. But please remember to utilise the times available to engage with teachers.

Expectations of Children in Teams conferencing

We have been so impressed by how quickly children have adapted to the *Teams* video conferencing that is allowing them to connect directly with their teacher, and with their classmates. We have to reiterate that our expectation of students on video conferencing is the same for if they were at school. Misbehavior, including mis-use of chat will be treated very seriously. Students who do the wrong thing will initially be removed from *Teams* for 1 day, then they will be removed permanently.

Quality Learning

It is a simple fact that children cannot learn when they are under stress and pressure. We are asking children to learn remotely, but this should not be causing undue pressure on families, or stress for children. If this is the case, please close the workbooks and contact the teacher. There are many ways children can learn while they are at home- by helping parents cook, or planting a garden, or playing with Lego. Please do not think that your child is going to be "behind" if they do not complete the Remote Learning- our teachers

and support team are here, waiting to assist with the curriculum when they return. Please focus on this incredible opportunity for your child to spend with family, over stressing about curriculum.

Support our Students

Just because our buildings are closed, it does not mean we are not here to support our students and families. Not only are our teachers and support staff working overtime to transform the curriculum and learning, they are here to offer additional support to families who need it. Please email or call the school if you would like assistance in any of the following

- Scheduled phone calls or video conferencing for curriculum support;
- Pastoral care in the form of a call, video conference or a safe, distanced home visit;
- A home visit to assist with setting up Class DoJo or Teams, or to drop off Remote Learning packs;
- A home visit if your family is struggling in other ways, where we can assist in providing resources or linking with support services.

While we have a range of supports on offer, our teachers cannot come and “teach” your children- we provide this daily through *Teams* video conferencing and through the high quality Learning Packs provided.

Please remember that we are currently only supervising the children of essential workers, on the days they are working and only after application and approval through the office.

Looking towards the Future

At this stage the College, and all Queensland schools remain closed for normal classes until at least 22 May. Although we miss the students dearly, we know this is the safest option. Our educators have worked incredibly hard to develop and implement a remote model of teaching which is working. We will not be changing this prematurely.

In closing, I would like to offer each and every one of you my love, and my prayers for a joyous, observant and charitable Ramadan. As we navigate this time of uncertainty, it is with the greatest of certainty that I profess that what we have fostered at AIIC is something truly remarkable, and that doesn't happen by accident.

Love, peace and blessings



Christine Harman
Principal