



18th March 2020

Asalamu Alaykum Respected Parents/Guardians,

I trust that you are all well in a high state of Imaan during this precarious time of Covid-19 pandemic. May Almighty keep us safe and protect us from the current calamity In Sha Allah, Ameen. I am pleased to inform you that I have taken up the role of Principal at the College. I am looking forward to serving our community and will try my best to fulfil the Amaanat that I have undertaken. May Almighty Bestow His Mercy, Guidance and Blessings on our students, staff and families and grant us success in this life and the Hereafter, In Sha Allah Ameen.

The wellbeing and welfare of our students is our number one priority at Garden College. We continue to monitor the latest information on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. With multiple confirmed cases in some schools around Australia, instead of adopting a wait-and-see approach, we have been working with our leadership team to ensure we maintain a safe environment for our students and staff members.

Alhamdulillah, there are no cases of coronavirus in any of our campuses. However, acting on the respective Government authorities advice we have taken the following precautionary measures,

- Revising our Critical Incident Management Plan and related policies
- Staying in close contact with the Department of Health, Department of Education and Association of Independent Schools of SA.
- Communicating any updates, health advice and fact sheets regarding Covid-19 with our staff and students
- Running information sessions for our students, regarding personal hygiene
- Providing hand sanitisers around the campuses and in offices
- Exercising no-contact policy between our students
- Whole-school assemblies, excursions, incursions have been postponed

In order to overcome these challenging time, we kindly ask our parents to adhere to the following guidelines to help us prepare and be proactive in dealing with this virus:

- We ask you to remind your children of the essential practice of good hygiene and the current recommendation for regularly washing hands, not touching their faces unnecessarily and to avoid physical contact and even sharing of food
- Stay home if they feel unwell. Please exercise caution in keeping with health agencies' advice, and monitor for symptoms such as fever, coughing, shortness of breath and other flu like symptoms.
- Any child presenting at school with colds, coughs or sneezing will be sent home
- Any family who has travelled overseas will be required to have a mandatory 2 week self-isolation period on return to Australia. Children of these families will also need to undergo the self-isolation period (even if the children have not travelled with their parents; as they live in the same household so will need to be away from school for the 14 days). Our staff will make all lessons available via Google Classroom
- For more information on Coronavirus please visit, <https://www.health.gov.au/>

While the level of anxiety in the community is no doubt growing, we believe that this is also a significant moment in human history where humility, adherence to rules and supporting each other as best as we can will unify us. May Allah (SWT) protect our children, our families and our communities from any form of harm and illness. Ameen.

Jazak-Allah Khairun for your support and cooperation

Dr Ahdielah Edries
Principal