

From: [FRSA \(NO-REPLY\)](#)
Subject: Term 2 Schooling - Chairman & CEO Message
Date: Wednesday, 22 April 2020 12:26:12 PM

Term 2 Schooling - Board Chairman & CEO Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Close of Term 1

At the close of Term 1, in the face of an unprecedented worldwide crisis, we could give testimony to the amazing providence of our heavenly Father. He provided abundantly in so many ways, and even while the Coronavirus was impacting large parts of society, our schools could continue to educate and nurture God's children in classrooms where the knowledge of scripture underpins all learning.

At the close of Term 1, our schools were prepared for school@home in Term 2. At the same time we together prayed earnestly that our John Calvin Schools might soon re-open their classrooms so that face-to-face Reformed Teaching and Learning could continue.

Government Announcement

Last Friday our Premier announced that WA State Government Schools would be open for Students, and particularly Years 11 & 12 Students are encouraged to attend school for the commencement of Term 2. The Government also identified an expanded cleaning regime and risk mitigation strategies, to ensure that the school environment will pose a very low risk to Staff and Students.

At the Commonwealth level of Government, our Prime Minister has maintained that Schools are a safe environment and has focused on ensuring schools are open and that student learning continues.

Independent School Decision

As an independent school, the Board and Management are responsible for ensuring that the schools are safe and need to make the final decision on how schooling is provided, and what the timeframe is for transitioning from school@home back to face-to-face delivery in classrooms.

FRSA's Position

Our strong preference is to have all the staff and students return on campus as soon as possible. This will happen as soon as it is responsible to do so. In making this decision the Board and senior leaders are guided by the advice provided by the Commonwealth and State Government and AISWA (Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia).

In developing a strategy for all students and staff to return to campus, we will adopt a staggered approach with the aim that all students will, with the blessing of the Lord, be back on campus by the end of May 2020. This aim will be reviewed day by day and week by week, and will only proceed if it continues to be supported by the Commonwealth and State Governments, and if we continue to be confident in our ability to provide a low risk environment for both staff and students.

By starting Term 2 with Year 11 & 12 Students on campus, we can learn practical lessons in our cleaning regime and risk mitigation strategies that can be applied to other grades. During week 1 & 2 of Term 2 we will monitor this return and re-open Grades 3-10 as soon as it is responsible to do so, perhaps in a staggered manner by grades. The year levels from K-2 will be managed separately and will likely be the last to return to school.

As we transition back to classroom teaching and learning, we understand that some parents may still choose to keep their children at home. We will support these parents and students and provide education materials to enable learning from home. However, these materials and this level of education will not be the same level as if the student was attending the school campus.

Our CEO and school Principals will be communicating further with Staff, Parents and Students regarding; the return-to-school strategy; Education delivery; and the range of hygiene and risk mitigation measures.

Concluding Comment

Brothers and Sisters, let us together thank and praise the Lord for His goodness. He is answering our prayers in His good time and in His good way. We don't know what that may mean as yet, and we don't know yet when our John Calvin Schools will return to 'normal' operation, but we do know for certain that we are safe in the loving arms of our heavenly Father.

With Christian Greetings,

Henry Dykstra
Board Chairman

Derek Swarts
CEO

Free Reformed School Association

Operating:

*John Calvin Christian College / Byford John Calvin School / Kelmescott John Calvin School
Rockingham John Calvin School / South West John Calvin Christian College*