

# A letter to Boarding Parents From the Principal



## Dear Boarding Parents

I write re the return of students to Calrossy this week. The Government announcement caught schools unaware as the original plans were for a gradual return over several months. For us it has been delightful to have our Year 11 and 12 students in residence for two weeks and to have many younger boarders back into the routine of normal school. The transition has been smooth, and the students have been marvellous.

Whilst I support the return to school, the situation is complex for Boarding. I am aware that the staged weeks between Year 7/8 and then 9/10 Boarders have been inconvenient for some, including our weekly families. Please be reassured that we are doing all we can to facilitate a quick return to normal boarding. Until then Calrossy will maintain online learning for Boarders not rostered to be on campus, though it will be a little different with the return of the day students.

What is preventing a return of all Year 7 to 10 boarders is the AHPPC regulations, which guide residential organisations on safe practice. The risk lies around the number of students permitted in dormitories and use of shared bathrooms. Whilst the virus infection rate in our area is zero (for over four weeks), the safety of our students remains our main concern. The school has been exploring alternative options for boarders including leasing another residential facility in Tamworth, having students billeted by locals or opening other areas of the school to accommodate more students.

With school opening for all Year groups next week I encourage weekly boarders who can travel daily to and from Tamworth to do so. Where possible, we also suggest making short-term accommodation arrangements with grandparents, relatives or friends. Some school families have offered to host students if needed. Feel free to make your own arrangements.

In order to share our plans and to discuss options open to us, Courtney Coe has planned an online Zoom meeting for next Monday 25 May at 7.30 pm. All Boarder parents are invited to join this session. A link for that meeting is provided at the bottom of this letter. Given that Zooms involve many people it will be Courtney and I doing the presenting.

Should you have questions or comments, the best option is to email them to her on [courtney.coe@calrossy.nsw.edu.au](mailto:courtney.coe@calrossy.nsw.edu.au) so that we can address them during the meeting. The Zoom will be recorded for families who cannot access the meeting at that time.

Our Boarding families have faced many challenges in this Covid-19 era, and I have been impressed by the way our community has faced them together. On top of drought and fire, the resilience of our students (with their families) has been extraordinary. Thank you for your support during the weeks of online learning and time apart. For me it demonstrates the strength and vibrance of our Boarding community, who hold a special place in Calrossy.

I am hoping for a return to full Boarding as soon as possible and again wish to reassure you that our Boarding team is doing everything possible to facilitate us all being back at school, learning and enjoying living in residence together.

Kind regards,

**David Smith**  
Principal  
M.A.; B. Ed (Distinction); Dip. Teach; MACE; MACEL

## Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87054526981?pwd=ZkdXWEVQUDFBV2UweE5FUUZNR2MyUT09>

Meeting ID: 870 5452 6981  
Password: 1tR0TV