



VILLANOVA COLLEGE

10 March 2020

Dear Parents

I am writing to inform you that the Parents and Friends Association Executive and I have made the difficult decision to postpone the Villanova College International Carnival due to be held on Saturday 21 March 2020. In light of the evolving COVID-19 (Coronavirus) situation and the uncertainty surrounding the spread of the virus, it was decided it would not be wise to hold an event where a large gathering of people, many external to our community, were placed in close proximity.

As you are aware there is an enormous amount of food preparation and ordering that has to be completed in the coming weeks, as well as purchasing ice, drinks and other associated items. There is no guarantee that the situation with the virus will improve dramatically, so the decision was made not to continue with the planning and organisation of this event for the following reasons:

1. To avoid the possible loss of income through ordering food items that potentially may not be able to be used due to the possible closure of the International Carnival.
2. The difficulty in controlling who is visiting the International Carnival and the state of health of all visitors. Visitors may also avoid attending this event, so they do not put themselves and their children at risk.
3. The extra stringent hygiene requirements associated with the elimination of the potential spread of the virus are difficult to put in place with such a large crowd, including various stalls, food handling, money counting, surfaces, etc.
4. There is currently a lack of supplies including hand sanitiser, gloves and other personal protection equipment available for purchase.

I know that many students and families will be disappointed to hear this news as they were looking forward to enjoying this community event once again. However, I know you appreciate that with the situation regarding the spread of the Coronavirus changing daily, it was necessary to make a timely decision.

I thank our stall conveners, volunteers and donors for their efforts and will share the new date for the Carnival with the College community once determined.

Our priority will always be to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all members of our community.

Thank you for your continued support of Villanova College.

Yours sincerely

Mr Mark Stower
College Principal