



ST HILDA'S SCHOOL GOLD COAST

From the Interim Principal

12 March 2020

UPDATE COVID-19 PANDEMIC - SCHOOL'S RESPONSE

Dear Parents and Carers

During the last week, we have witnessed the impact of the COVID-19 virus globally and domestically. At the time of writing, a number of schools and universities have been advised by Health Departments to close for 24 hours, whilst premises are cleaned.

The health and well-being of our students, families and staff is our highest priority. Anglican Schools under the umbrella of the Anglican Schools Commission continue to stay informed and prepared for any challenges which might lie ahead of us should we have a confirmed report of COVID-19.

How you can assist

At School, we have continued to focus on promoting hygiene practices throughout the term with an emphasis on washing hands throughout the day, using hand sanitizers, and the correct protocols for sneezing and coughing. Our cleaning staff continue their thorough daily routines, prioritising contact areas.

We ask parents to continue to emphasise the importance of these behaviours at home. If your daughter is unwell with symptoms of influenza, the Queensland Health Department provides information on the recommended minimum exclusion periods for infectious conditions. In the current climate it is important that students who are unwell and displaying influenza-like symptoms do not attend school. If you are called and asked to collect your daughter, your timely response would be appreciated.

Please continue to reference updated [COVID-19](#) information on the [Queensland Health](#) website or [Australian Government](#) website. These sites are being progressively updated and it is important to continue to stay in touch with the latest information.

Overseas School Tours, Family Holiday Travel and Overseas Exchanges

Schools have been encouraged to observe the government's "do not travel" advice, and to reconsider our "need to travel". With this advice we have organised the postponement of our mid-year Europe Tour and thank all families involved for their understanding when receiving this disappointing news.

As an ongoing precaution and to ensure the safety of all students and staff, we will ask families and staff who are travelling overseas during the upcoming holidays to register their overseas destinations prior to the term break by completing an online form. **Please [click here](#) to complete and submit the form.** Parents should note, it is possible that the current list of 'do not travel' countries may expand and result in quarantine periods being required at home prior to students returning to school.

Correspondence regarding our Overseas Cultural Exchange program will be sent directly to families who are participating in our 2020 program.

School Operations

Should circumstances arise where schools are directed to close, we are committed to continuing to deliver our curriculum online to ensure continuity of learning for our students. Whilst the experience cannot explicitly replicate what occurs with face-to-face classroom learning, our teaching staff will provide content through our Learning Management System to assist students' learning at home.

Parents will be notified by SMS should this situation arise. Please ensure your contact details provided to the School are up to date. Please also check that you have downloaded the St Hilda's App so that you can receive push notifications. [Click here](#) for details on how to download and effectively use the St Hilda's App.

Boarding Community

Plans to facilitate the accommodation and travel arrangements of our Boarders, should we experience closure, will be coordinated in conjunction with parents, the Boarding House and our International Connections Officer. Boarding parents will receive a specific communication outlining plans.

Domestic tours, camps and activities

With the impending Canberra Tour for our Year 6 cohort, we continue to monitor advice on domestic travel. Junior School will advise parents if any change is required to current plans.

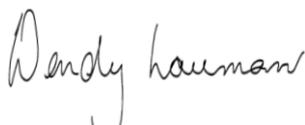
Challenge Week: Middle School has been liaising with our camp providers to consider any potential risks with these programs. Ms Upasiri will communicate further updates; however, please note the following to assist you with preparation for Week 9 of this term:

- We have made the decision to move from tents to cabins for our Year 7 and Year 8 camp programs to facilitate sleeping arrangements with better ventilation and room for greater personal space.
- At Kenilworth, we are unable to access cabins for our Year 9 cohort. This camp program will be postponed till Week 8 Term 2. Year 9 students will have the benefit of an additional week to prepare for their Examination Session which will now occur in Week 9. A communication on the Week 9 program content will be emailed to parents from the Learning and Teaching team.
- Year 10 Retreat arrangements remain unchanged.
- At present, all sport, cultural and co-curricular activities continue to run as per our calendar.

We will continue to advise you should circumstances change. In the meantime, we will remain vigilant. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have already been affected by the current situation.

Please contact your daughter's Head of School if you have any concerns which you need to discuss.

Yours sincerely



Wendy Lauman

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Interim Principal