



ST HILDA'S SCHOOL GOLD COAST

From the Principal

19 June 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE FROM PRINCIPAL – 19 JUNE 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm sure in each of your households you will have found the circumstances of this last semester different to any other we have had at school. The resilience of all our young women has been quite remarkable when you consider the changes in routines they have experienced and, for many, the loss of opportunities they have endured with co-curricular activities and captaincies of Autumn sports. No doubt with the commencement of the Stage 3 Guidelines governing activity next term, the girls will be feeling buoyed knowing they will be able to resume their much-loved programs.

Student Leadership

The Year 12 cohort and our Student leaders in Junior, Middle and Senior School, have done much since the beginning of the year to organise special activities, some being online, to continue to provide opportunities for connection and the development of School spirit. I hope you have enjoyed hearing directly from our School Captain Edwina, Middle School leaders Edi and Summer, and Junior School Captains Charlize and Clementine in our monthly Newsletter. Next term our Year 11 cohort will continue their preparation for leadership with interviews for Prefect positions and the announcement of 2021 roles scheduled for Assembly in Week 6. From there Year 12 will operate as mentors to the next Senior cohort and assist with the Induction of 2021 Senior leaders at the commencement of Term 4. Leadership positions in Junior and Middle School will be announced at the Speech Day ceremony at the end of the School year.

Boarding

Yesterday, schools received the updated Australian Health Protection Principal Committee's statement on risk management for Boarding schools. David Robertson, ISQ Executive Director, is meeting with Queensland's Chief Health Officer today and will send a briefing to assist the development of our next iteration of the School's risk management plan. We now anticipate being able to welcome back more of our Boarding families next term and will send a separate communication today to keep everyone informed. On behalf of the School, I would like to thank our community for the offers of assistance with available accommodation, and for all those who have got behind the *Bring Our Boarders Back* campaign. The patience of our Boarding families is to be admired. Thank you for the time you have spent strengthening your relationships with us during this period and guiding us as to how we can best assist your daughters.

Academic Monitoring

The Weekly Newsletters from our Heads of School have highlighted specific programs currently being delivered to students as they approach subject selection for 2021 or, in the case of Year 12, pathways beyond school. Parents of our Senior students will be aware of the current discussion on the anticipated demand for university positions next year. Year 12 students will continue to receive updated information on webinars and online Open Days as they move into next semester. Conversations with your daughters at this time of year are helpful in identifying timelines to pursue the girls' options. To date, Mr Crowe, Assistant Head of Learning and Teaching, has met with all Year 12 students to monitor their

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progress and goals. Ms Upasiri will be conducting similar monitoring sessions with Years 7 and 9. Set Plan interviews for Senior Subject Selection with Year 10s commence early in Term 3 and Mrs Brodar will continue to conduct monitor meetings with Year 10s in Term 3. Monitoring meetings will be scheduled for Years 9 and 11 mid-Term 3.

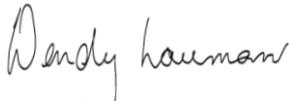
Term Fees

School Council met last night and have maintained their commitment to recognising the financial hardship many in the community continue to endure as a result of the global pandemic. The strategy employed for Term 3 to assist all families will replicate our Term 2 approach, with a 10% discount in tuition fees, plus 5% discount for payment by the due date, together with the provision to support families who have greater need. This strategy has been well received by those whose circumstances have significantly changed. Contact for specific assistance should be made to Fees@sthildas.qld.edu.au. On a personal note, I would like to thank all those who placed trust in the School and have reached out to enable us to know what support is needed at this time.

The School Council will maintain this strategy for Term 3 in order to achieve the same benefits for our community. Prior to Term 4, School Council will again look at the anticipated needs of St Hilda's families.

I trust that everyone is looking forward to the girls having a break from the rigour of their school life over this holiday period. The Easter vacation was not restful for most, so I hope that the next three weeks will enable you to regroup and enjoy each other's company.

Yours sincerely



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Principal