



**ST HILDA'S SCHOOL
GOLD COAST**

From the Principal

5 June 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE FROM THE PRINCIPAL – 5 JUNE 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The lively rhythm of school life is now well and truly re-established across the School campus. Many have already undertaken assessment of units largely studied when the majority were learning at home, others are reviewing their work prior to upcoming assessment, and for those who continue to learn on-line, they have entered a new stage of liaising with teachers to provide feedback on the advantages or otherwise of the classroom approach.

With the publication of the latest *Roadmap to Easing of Restrictions*, and communication from GCHPU, we have been able to provide some preliminary information on Term 3 as we work on our latest COVID-19 Risk Management Plan. The pool has re-opened, following Stage 1 Guidelines, and next week's schedule will reflect an adjustment for the increase of numbers allowed to be in the pool precinct. Initial information on the QGSSSA Winter Fixtures and BSRA Season has been forwarded to students and parents, and the School Calendar is currently being updated with Andrews Cup fixtures.

Music is continuing to prepare for a return of all ensembles in the new term after extensive research by Ms Kelly to inform the risk mitigation for these programs.

This next iteration of accommodation availability and measures to minimise COVID-19 transmission in the Boarding House should be available early next week. We have gained a great deal of hope from the recent advice received from GCHPU on the easing of restrictions which will enhance the quality of the girls' experience.

Classroom visits this week have given me an opportunity to observe the quality of teacher-student interactions as feedback on formative tasks is unpacked, higher-level thinking and problem solving is provoked through content discussion, and established routines maximise the students' productivity. There is a confidence and strong sense of commitment to learning which imbues our environment – I cannot help but think that absence from the day-to-day routine of school has actually enhanced the girls' motivation and that interactions show a renewed sense of respect for all who are learning. Maintaining this rhythm and purpose over the final weeks of term will be a worthwhile goal for all.

There has also been an opportunity for some celebration this week, and I would like to express my deep gratitude to the students and the staff who presented me with a lively video recording of congratulations from all over the school, and the Guard of Honour throughout the campus today, where together with Mr Paul Salter our Head of Business, we were given spirited rounds of cheers as we were led through the campus. I have included a couple of photos below for your interest. We are sincerely appreciative of the recognition of our efforts along with the entire St Hilda's School community to enable our school to thrive during these long months of disruption and change.

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I hope your weekend is one filled with opportunities to enjoy this glorious winter weather with your family and friends.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Lauman

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Principal