



## ST HILDA'S SCHOOL GOLD COAST

From the Interim Principal

18 March 2020

### CURRENT SCHOOL RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Dear Parents and Carers

The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee met to consider the issue of school closures in relation to the community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19), and advised that 'pre-emptive closures are not likely to be proportionate or effective as a public health intervention to prevent community transmission of COVID-19 at this time'.

With this advice, and today's reiteration from the Chief Medical Officer 'that there is no need to shut down schools, but children and teachers should practice good hand hygiene', we will continue to abide by the government's position, and remain open.

### STRATEGIES WE ARE ENACTING INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING, BUT THIS IS NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST

- Students continue to engage in their daily learning programs
- Equipment and books are cleaned following sanitizing instructions
- Additional cleaning, and provision of hand sanitizer and tissues
- Continuation of hygiene education with email notifications and posters in prominent areas
- If a student presents at school and they are not well, parents are called to collect their daughter
- Staggered lunches to facilitate fewer students interacting in the cafeteria and bathrooms
- Cancellation of assemblies, and events with large gatherings of students such as Inter-House Cross Country
- Postponement of camps, retreats, and excursions
- Monitoring of student, staff and visitors' travel

### CANCELLATIONS

Parent Teacher interviews scheduled for the end of Term 1 and commencement of Term 2 have been cancelled. Parents of Middle/Senior School students will receive notifications when Progressive Reporting becomes available. Arrangements for Junior School will be sent separately by the Head of Junior School.

Please note that a number of associations have conferred during the past week on the continuation of extra-curricular activities. At this point in time, the following programs have been cancelled:

- Sport training and fixtures, including Andrew's Cup, QGSSSA Cricket, Artistic Gymnastics, Cross-Country and QGSSSA Autumn fixtures, as well as Club Netball. We will not continue with the Club Touch season. The BSRA Rowing season has also been cancelled.
- Gold Coast Debating Season
- Chapel Services for the remainder of the term
- Service activities including *Rosie's Friends on the Streets*

### PROGRAMS WHICH WILL CONTINUE WITH APPROPRIATE PROTOCOLS

- Co-Curricular program and individual Music tuition
- Individual and small group Speech and Drama tuition
- After-School Tutorials and Tutorial Academy

## ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS

Families are asked to continue to follow updates on the Government's isolation and quarantine requirements. If a family member or guest in your household is quarantined, please follow explicitly the Health Department's advice on social distancing and hygiene. Please see the following information on [Self-Quarantine](#) from the Queensland Government website.

Should a member of your household test positive to COVID-19, please immediately advise your daughter's Head of School to enable us to work with the Health Department to take all necessary action.

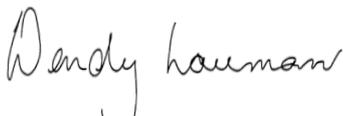
Please continue to reference updated COVID-19 information on the [Queensland Health](#) website and/or [Australian Government](#) website. These sites are being progressively updated and it is important to continue to stay in touch with the latest information. You may also find the following [video](#) helpful, provided by Gold Coast University Hospital where health experts answer commonly asked questions.

## STUDENT ABSENCE

Staff and students continue to work with focus, commitment and dedication as they approach assessment and examination blocks. We continue to monitor attendance and individual student needs. However, we do ask that you respect that the School is open, and that our teaching staff are currently facilitating core learning and preparing for online learning should we be directed to close and need to change our delivery. Therefore, teachers are not in a position to respond to individual requests for work should students choose to stay at home. They will be able to provide the class, via the class email list, the content covered during lessons.

As always, we appreciate your support and understanding and will continue to advise you should circumstances change.

Kind regards



Wendy Lauman  
AACM(Td), BEd, CertTh, MEd, AIMM, MACEL  
**Interim Principal**