

Wilsonton State High School

16 April 2020

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Dear Wilsonton State High School Family,

I am writing to update you with the latest information regarding schooling during Term Two. As the COVID 19 situation continues to develop, our school has been preparing a blended model of delivery of education and we are prepared and ready to continue to provide successful learning opportunities for your child.

As I am sure you are aware, the Premier and the Minister of Education announced on Monday (13 April 2020) that schools will be providing a “blended” model of learning for the **first five weeks of this term** to reinforce social distancing across the community to slow the spread of COVID 19. The Department of Education will decide about the remainder of Term 2 by mid-May.

Blended learning means that students who are able to access learning either online or via printed materials at home should continue to do so. **Our school will continue to be open for all children of essential workers and vulnerable students only.** During this period, **all students who are able to be supervised at home and learn from home are to stay home.** Students who attend school during this period will be supported by staff to participate in the same learning program being delivered to students who are learning at home for the first five weeks of the term.

As I communicated before the holidays, our school is well prepared for this scenario and our staff have done an extensive amount of preparation to provide the very best education delivery possible at this time.

The expectation on our students regardless of which delivery platform they access, will be that they continue to apply themselves to the high standards of learning that both you and our school expects at all times. This week I have met with both my executive team and my leadership team to ensure that the information I can provide to you is as up to date as possible.

As a school, we know that this will continue to be a time of transition. Our school continues to be available to support both our students and our parent community through this time. The support that we offer through a variety of avenues includes but is not limited to questions regarding student learning, IT support and of course, maintaining both physical and mental health wellbeing at this unprecedented time in history.

All learning materials for the first three weeks of Term Two were uploaded at the end of Term One. Students can access their individualised courses at <http://elearn.eq.edu.au>. Further learning resources were communicated in my previous communication before the holidays. If you or your child runs into difficulty accessing these please seek assistance by emailing itsupport@wilsontonshs.eq.edu.au or through phoning the main office on 46390444.

Important tips for Students and Parents/Caregivers to be successful in home learning were provided before the holidays. I have **attached these tips** to this email for you so that you can refresh these with your child as they resume learning from home. As we now know what the first five weeks will look like, I have provided some further tips below that may be of assistance.

- Use the first week as a period of transition. Together we need to be prepared to transition to this new environment. Unfortunately, while our lessons are currently online and printed materials have been posted, we cannot control aspects such as internet reliability.
- This time provides an opportunity for our students to find out more about themselves as learners and to build confidence in self-discipline in regards to their learning. We always encourage your child to take

responsibility for not only their learning but also staying in touch with their teacher. Teaching staff will be available online via email at each of the dedicated lesson times on their Timetable - eg. a Year 7 Maths teacher will be available via email to answer any questions in regards to content delivery during the scheduled Maths lesson time.

- If your child is finding a task difficult, make suggestions and answer questions, but try to let them discover the answer for themselves where possible—students where appropriate should be able to take responsibility for their learning during this time.

Before and during the holidays, our [survey monkey link](#) has been live for Essential Workers to register your intention for student attendance at school for Term Two. I thank everyone who has already completed this survey over the holiday period. If your situation has changed since you completed the survey, please make contact by emailing lwool2@eq.edu.au to advise us of these changes.

For those students who are attending school next week, I want to reassure you that the high standard of cleaning that was occurring before the holidays will continue. We will once again be employing additional cleaners to make sure that all high use areas receive further cleaning throughout the school day including but not limited to toilets, desks, handrails etc. Our school will do what we can to limit this virus spread.

Students who are attending school on Monday (20 April 2020) and have registered their intent to do so, are to gather at the following locations and will have their name marked off and further instructions provided:

- Year 7 Auditorium
- Year 8 Hill between Library and Auditorium
- Year 9 Canteen area
- Year 10 ALC
- Year 11 Undercover Area
- Year 12 Undercover Area

Students who are attending school will need to be aware of the following requirements:

- Bring all necessary resources required for learning to school.
- Wear the appropriate school uniform for each day.
- Where possible wash hands with soap and water at the commencement and conclusion of each lesson. Hand sanitiser will continue to be made available to those classrooms that do not have access to sink facilities.
- Ensure all social distancing measures are followed as directed.
- Complete all set class and out of class tasks as required by your teachers.
- The tuckshop will be open in a *limited capacity*. Orders for all menu items (prepared food) can be made through flexischools but some items will be able to be ordered and paid for at the canteen each day. These items will be items such as drinks and other non perishable items.

Students who are learning from home will be required to be aware of the following requirements:

- An email will be sent each morning to each student to allow roll marking procedures to occur. ***This email will need to be responded to by 9.15 am.*** The email will each day provide their year level timetable along with a request to reply as to their attendance status for the day. If a student is at home learning, they are marked as present but if they are sick due to illness etc. then this response is required so that we can adjust our records accordingly. If a student fails to respond to the email by 9.15 am, further communication will occur with each Parent or Caregiver each day. For those families that have requested printed materials we will make alternative contact via phone each day.
- Each week tasks are required to be completed by students working from home. Students will receive their weekly tasks every Monday morning with the expectation being that these are returned via email to your regular Term 1 Teacher by the due date specified.
- Regularly a member of our support team will make contact with Parents/Caregivers of students learning at home to check in with you. The aim of this contact is to not only assist with any questions you may have but also to offer any social and/or emotional support that might be required. If you have questions or need

assistance prior to a phone call from the support team, please do not hesitate to make contact with Mr Rick Masters either through email rmast17@eq.edu.au or through the school phone number.

- Mr Jarroush and the PE staff will each day provide a physical challenge on Facebook and students will be able to access these and complete these as they go.
- Mr Wrench will also be providing daily intellectual challenges that will be available on Facebook and will allow students to access these and to respond with their answers. Each day Mr Wrench will give the solution to the previous day's problems as well as a new challenge.

For those Parents who have registered their request for printed materials, they should have already received these in the mail for *week one* and materials for *week two* and *three* will be posted this coming week.

I have attached a [link](#) to the Department of Education's resource for Parents and Caregivers with *Frequently Asked Questions* you might find useful to complement the information supplied in this letter.

Our school website contains all of my updates that have previously been provided during this time and I encourage you to access them [here](#) if you need to revisit any information supplied in these.

Our main office will reopen on Monday 20 April at 8 am. **To ensure that we limit the number of people into the office**, please be aware that our school can answer questions either on the **school office number 46 390444** or through **email** via lwool2@eq.edu.au.

Together we will walk hand in hand in this new learning opportunity that this situation has presented. I encourage you to let us know if you are unsure about something or if there are further ways we can assist both you and your child to be successful during this time. We continue to appreciate your support and partnership in this uncertain time as we strive for the most successful outcomes in the current environment.

I look forward to learning resuming on Monday.

Yours faithfully,



Marcus Jones
Principal