

# Wilsonton State High School

26 March 2020



Good afternoon Wilsonton State High School community,

I want to thank you for your ongoing support of our school during this testing time due to the current COVID 19 situation our country is facing. I would like to acknowledge the excellent work of all members of my staff both teaching and non teaching who are continuing to provide normal routines in an environment that is anything but. My additional cleaning teams are doing an excellent job of cleaning high use areas multiple times during the day to limit the spread of this virus.

***You would be aware that the Premier and Minister announced this morning that next week (30 March – 3 April), we would have Student Free Days.*** You would be aware from my letters and information on Facebook that our school is already offering online materials so that students have been able to continue their learning if you had decided to not send your child to school. I want to let you know that I support whatever decision that you have made based on your individual situations. For some students, the best place has been to remain at school and for others, the best decision will be to continue to keep your children at home.

Now that ***Student Free Days*** have been designated for next week (30 March – 3 April), I am writing to inform you that our school **will not** be offering formal lessons during these days as this time will be required to allow staff the opportunity to transfer their resources to our already developed online platform. ***Students of essential workers will be eligible to attend next week and be supervised accessing their self paced learning via the online materials but formal teaching will not occur.***

This online platform, in addition to curriculum content, will have many links and useful suggestions for students to access to ensure both their health and wellbeing is maintained while studying through our online environment. As previously communicated, we have online work currently on our website in addition to the learning platforms that I communicated last week. Still, I have listed these below again for you:

1. Students in Year 7 through to 12 can continue their learning from home in our virtual elearning environment, which is located at <https://elearn.eq.edu.au> This is accessed using a student's username and password.
2. Students in Year 11 and 12 can get access to a month free of ATAR support at the following address [www.atarsupport.com.au](http://www.atarsupport.com.au)
3. The Department of Education has a number of online tools and resources to support students. Curriculum resources for Mathematics and English are available for students to complete at their own pace. To access the learning@home website, please go to the following link <https://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/learning-at-home>
4. **Mighty Minds:** The Mighty Minds link will enable students from years 7-10 to access self- paced learning tasks and self-assessments to support learning across English, Maths, Science and Humanities. Students will receive emails to their school email as work is made available through the Mighty Minds portal. ***All students in year 7-10 will receive an email with their personalised login and password details.***
5. Senior students will initially have a range of 20 Cognitive Skill development activities, specifically targeting their individual subject selections. These activities will be based on the key cognitive verbs associated with their subjects. The nature and number of allocated activities will be updated on a fortnightly basis. ***All students in year 10-12 will receive an email with their personalised login and password details.***

6. FSK20113 Certificate II Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways: Every student in years 10, 11 and 12 may access the online booklets via the <https://elearn.eq.edu.au> page and begin this course. Students will need additional face to face instruction at a future date but would be able to complete around 75% of the course by working diligently through the workbooks.
7. Students who have assessment (not exams) due next week are still expected to submit this directly to their teacher by the due date specified for the assessment piece.

If you would like a paper copy of any of the resources listed above, please make contact with *Nadonna Schouten* in the office and she will be able to organise this for you. Should you have any problems with access to any of the above, please email our IT support team at [itsupport@wilsontonshs.eq.edu.au](mailto:itsupport@wilsontonshs.eq.edu.au)

One of the challenges associated with this had been that a number of Year 11 and 12 subjects were due to sit exams next week. The QCAA (Queensland Curriculum & Assessment Authority) have made decisions in line with feedback from schools, parents and students that make it possible for the school to move forward into next term without requiring the completing of some testing at the end of this term.

***Below is an extract from the QCAA Communique:***

*“Everyone agrees that the health and well-being of students, and their families and teachers, is our top priority. Teaching, learning and assessment are important but secondary concerns, and we don’t want them to unnecessarily contribute to the emotional strain experienced by senior students and their families.*

*After considering a range of scenarios and possible responses, along with feedback from students, parents, teachers and the wider school community, the QCAA Board resolved that an immediate response is required to alleviate the stresses being felt in school communities.*

*We have decided to remove one internal assessment from the total of four prescribed in each syllabus. This will provide some relief for students as they contend with uncertainty and disruption while working towards their Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) in 2020. It will also support teachers to manage reduced classroom time.*

*In the next few weeks, the QCAA will provide schools with direction on how they should adjust what is taught and the nature and timing of other assessments. There will be some flexibility to accommodate the specific needs of subjects — both General and Applied — but across-the-board adjustment is necessary to ensure the assessment experience is as equitable as it can be for all students.*

*Students can be assured that they will still receive fair subject results based on fewer than the four assessments mandated in syllabuses. Their parents and carers, and their teachers, can draw comfort from the QCAA’s commitment to listen and respond to their concerns as we negotiate the ongoing challenges this year will bring.”*

Our Year 12s have been the first full cohort to complete Prep, they are the first cohort to go to highschool in Year 7, they are the first cohort to go through the new QCE (ATAR process) and they are the first ever cohort in history that are having to deal with the COVID 19 situation. We stand together with our Year 12s at this time. I will personally communicate with the year 12 students tomorrow with further information.

As you are already aware through previous communications, our school has very extensive processes in place to ensure that we limit the spread of this virus as much as is possible. I want to reinforce to you that these procedures will be in place for as long as is required because our school is committed to this for as long as needed. We as human beings are naturally social people but as I continue to reinforce to our students this must cease and **we must maintain at all times the 1.5 metres between us at all times**. As the Prime Minister stated the other night we must come to terms with these changes if we are to all support each other in the fight against this virus. ***I ask that you are able to reinforce these very clear messages at home as we will continue to provide at school.***

I have made some further decisions that will continue to impact our school. I have made the decision to delay the reporting process for term one until a later time. With our staff required to prepare online materials, I will ask them to prioritise this so that learning can be prioritised ready for the beginning of Term Two.

As you know, the Premier has communicated that **students of essential workers will be eligible able to come to school next week**. In order for me to plan the staffing mix that I will require next week, tomorrow I will provide by both Facebook and email, a link to a survey with two options for your child. **I need to stress that this survey is for students next week only (30 March – 3 April)**.

This survey will require you to enter your child details along with your chosen option from the two options listed below.

**Option 1** – Your child **WILL attend school** next week and be supervised working self paced via our online learning materials. No formal teaching will occur.

**Option 2** – Your child **WILL NOT attend** school next week and will remain home under your supervision.

Students not attending may also choose to access our online learning. If you require printed materials because you do not have access please contact Nadonna Schouten in the office who will be able to provide this either via mail or in person as required.

**These are the only two options and one must be selected.** In order for me to plan, I want to stress that you will **not** be able to “**chop and change**” options and that the option that you submit will be the option that you believe will best suit your family needs **next week**.

In times such as these, I continue to be reminded about how much our community is there for each other. Some of our community are doing things tougher than usual and please understand that our school is with you at this time and if we can support in any way, please do not hesitate to ask. If you are in a position to support these local businesses, I ask that like my staff, you do this wherever possible. Alternatively, if you would like your business or place of work to be supported, please feel free to either through direct message on Facebook or via email let us know so that we can pass this information.

My Guidance Officer Rick Masters and his support team will continue to provide health and wellbeing updates via our Facebook page. In the event of a possible school closure, Mr Masters will be contactable by phone for any support that is required or referral through to further support agencies. I will communicate this phone number with you if required.

When we look back on this event, we won't necessarily remember the learning or the organisation that was required to be implemented to support our school community. Still, we will look back on this time and remember how we supported each other and how like always, the Wilsonton State High School community were able to stand as one Together.

I would like to acknowledge the many positive messages, phone calls and emails that we have received from you our community. It is undoubtedly a difficult and changing time for our entire community. Again I thank you for your support of our school and I trust that you will remain safe during this very uncertain time in our lives.

Yours faithfully,



Marcus Jones  
Principal