



**ST HILDA'S SCHOOL
GOLD COAST**

From the Interim Principal

23 April 2020

COVID-19 COMMUNIQUE - 23 APRIL 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This first week of the Government's designated 5-weeks home-based learning, with learning at School for children of essential workers and vulnerable children, continues to highlight the importance of high expectations and the value of learning together. The working relationship between home and school has perhaps never received so much attention – particularly by the media!

As our teachers engage with their specialised knowledge of learners and their characteristics, curriculum content, and new approaches to pedagogy, students are adapting to learning in a different physical environment, whether at home or school. For many parents everything is different, even if you are trying to maintain some routines which help provide a sense of normalcy. What is working in our favour during this time is the strong sense of community we have created together. We are noticing that the culture of collaboration and peer support among our staff, and the girls, is being embraced by parents and caregivers.

Thank you for reading the weekly, and sometimes daily, communications we are sending to you on school operations, welfare, and online learning plans. We appreciate that in some households, families will need further levels of support to help them navigate this new territory. I have received feedback that our IT Services have provided excellent technical advice; some classes are holding online meetings of an evening to troubleshoot any emerging concerns; book packs prepared for Junior School home-learning have been well-received; and, that there has been a good deal of communication between home and school on the variety of work and the girls' interest and engagement.

This is all positive, but we should also acknowledge that, for some, individual contexts and temperaments will colour the significant and rapid changes we are all managing. In an article for Forbes, Bryan Robinson provides some useful advice on how to cope with COVID-19 anxiety. He suggests, the key is, "to remain level-headed, sensible and avoid stressing yourself", and to "find the opportunity in the difficulty, the upside to a downside situation beyond our control".

My personal advice is to decrease the amount of commentary we are viewing on social media and news broadcasts; this coverage does not necessarily tell us what to think, but it tells us what to think about. I have lost count of the number of emotive stories and discussions seen in recent weeks on schools returning for Term 2. I am pleased to share that students are settling into the transition well, particularly when prepared for the day. Teachers are finding new ways to check in with students, and I have seen supportive online class cultures taking shape this week.

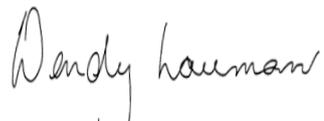
However, if your daughter is struggling at home, please remember that we are here to help. Connect with us so we can work together to support both you and your daughter.

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Please view the link to the [Online Learning button](#) on our website to keep up to date with additional information each week.

Wishing you and your family well as we assess Week 1 and prepare for Week 2!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wendy Lauman".

Wendy Lauman

MEd, BEd, GradCertTh, AACM(Td), AIMM, MACEL
Interim Principal