



**ST HILDA'S SCHOOL  
GOLD COAST**

**From the Interim Principal**

1 April 2020

**COVID-19 UPDATE – 1 APRIL 2020**

Dear Parents and Caregivers

The release of information from the Federal Government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, in terms of actions to support both health and the economy, continues to be updated almost daily. Whilst schools have been liaising in recent weeks to discuss our approaches as edicts are announced, each school community has been required to make decisions informed by its own context.

I'd like to share with you some of the actions and approaches we have taken in recent weeks during this developing situation. Our decisions have been based on providing a safe environment for all members of our community and a calm and ordered approach to school life. To this end we have endeavoured to provide timely communication to enable families to make plans to suit their circumstances.

- Postponed the Year 6 Canberra Trip, Challenge Week Camps and Year 10 Retreat
- Maintained our Examination Block for Senior School Students
- Continued uninterrupted classroom teaching and provided work for students learning from home
- Introduced online learning platforms in classes to test capabilities
- Maintained our assessment and examination schedule throughout the School
- Facilitated urgent travel arrangements for boarders prior to the Queensland and Northern Territory border closing and the rescheduling of international flights
- Programmed additional professional learning for staff.

This staged approach has enabled us to work closely with our families, the St Hilda's staff, and TSS. The leadership of the School are particularly grateful for our community's response, and words of encouragement offered to us during this time.

On Tuesday last week we endeavoured to provide some certainty to parents as to when the School would close, rather than waiting for the roll out of announcements from the State and Federal Governments. By reorganising our School Calendar and finishing Term 1 on Friday, we did not need to close for one or two days for online preparation and then return to classes. This solution has suited other schools, but it would not have been an advantage for our students.

Adjusting the commencement and conclusion of terms later in the year will also allow our students to have additional instruction at a time when it is anticipated that there may be a de-escalation in this current health crisis. For our Senior students, these days will assist their final preparation for the new external examinations.

Please note the changed dates in the Revised Term Dates table below.

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## REVISED TERM DATES

PREVIOUS TERM DATES		REVISED TERM DATES AS AT 25 MARCH 2020	
<b>END OF TERM 1</b>			
<b>Thurs 2 April</b>	<b>LAST DAY TERM 1</b>	<b>Friday 27 March</b>	<b>LAST DAY TERM 1</b>
Friday 3 April	STAFF DAY	Mon-Fri 30 Mar – 3 Apr	STAFF DAYS <i>*4 Staff Days added to replace changes below</i>
<b>TERM 2 – 9 WEEKS</b>			
Monday April 20	STAFF DAY	Mon April 20	STAFF DAY
<b>Tuesday 21 April</b>	<b>TERM 2 BEGINS - Classes commence</b>	<b>Tues 21 April</b>	<b>TERM 2 CLASSES BEGIN</b>
<b>Thursday June 18</b>	<b>LAST DAY TERM 2</b>	<b>Friday June 19</b>	<b>LAST DAY TERM 2</b>
Friday June 19	STAFF DAY	<i>*Staff Day replaced by School Day</i>	
<b>TERM 3 – 10 Weeks</b>			
Monday July 13	STAFF DAY	<b>Monday July 13</b>	<b>TERM 3 CLASSES BEGIN</b>
Tuesday July 14	<b>TERM 3 BEGINS - Classes commence</b>	<i>*Staff Day replaced by School Day</i>	
Friday 4 September	STAFF DAY / CONFIRMATION DAY (previously known as Panel Day held in October)	Friday 4 September	STAFF DAY / CONFIRMATION DAY (previously known as Panel Day held in October)
<b>Thurs September 17</b>	<b>LAST DAY TERM 3</b>	<b>Friday September 18</b>	<b>LAST DAY TERM 3</b>
Friday September 18	STAFF DAY	<i>*Staff Day replaced by School Day</i>	
<b>TERM 4 – 8 Weeks</b>			
Monday October 5	QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY	Monday October 5	QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY
Tuesday October 6	STAFF DAY	<b>Tuesday October 6</b>	<b>TERM 4 CLASSES BEGINS</b>
<b>Wednesday October 7</b>	<b>TERM 4 BEGINS - Classes commence</b>	<i>*Staff Day replaced by School Day</i>	
Friday November 20	Last Day for Year 12 Students	Friday November 20	Last Day for Year 12 Students
<b>Wed November 25</b>	<b>Last Day for Pre-Prep and Prep</b>	<b>Wed November 25</b>	<b>Last Day for Pre-Prep and Prep</b>
<b>Thurs November 26</b>	<b>LAST DAY TERM 4 - Speech Day – Boarders travel at conclusion of Speech Day Ceremony</b>	<b>Thurs November 26</b>	<b>LAST DAY TERM 4 - Speech Day – Boarders travel at conclusion of Speech Day Ceremony</b>
Friday November 27	STAFF DAY	Friday November 27	STAFF DAY

### TERM 2

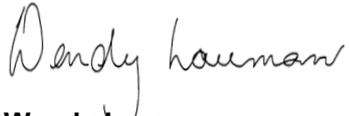
In my previous letter, I shared with families that our fee statements for Term 2 would be accompanied by a communication from our Head of Business. We are in no doubt that this is a unique time and that any certainty on how life-as-usual can continue is helpful. The School will continue to provide all students with high quality learning to support their growth and engagement with the curriculum. What will become apparent in coming weeks, is whether teaching and learning in Term 2 will be via online delivery for the term, for part of the term, or whether schools will be able to resume face-to-face classroom delivery from Tuesday 21 April.

Given the unchartered territory mentioned above, schools are unable to make budgetary decisions at this point in time prior to understanding the complex nature of the services which will be required.

Thank you to those parents who have contacted the School to discuss their daughter's tuition in Term 2. I understand that a number of families have nominated to use the Edstart facility to manage flexibility with payment. School Council will be meeting next week and at this time we will be able to discuss any adjustments which may assist families according to need.

I hope in outlining the actions and approaches we are taking that our families will continue to feel supported by the School's direction as we manage circumstances arising from this pandemic.

Yours sincerely

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

**Wendy Lauman**

*MEd, BEd, CertTh, AACM(Td), AIMM, MACEL*

Interim Principal