

From the Principal

10 July 2020

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE - 10 JULY 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you have had an opportunity to enjoy the semester break with your family. Certainly, there has been an air of optimism during the mid-year break, which we were not able to enjoy earlier in the year. This said, the sudden changes which we are experiencing as governments and health departments navigate the management of COVID-19 outbreaks, has no doubt impacted many in our community once again. Our Boarding families returning from NSW will no doubt be listening to reports on the wait time at the border with some trepidation. Nevertheless, I thank you in advance for all that you do to help your daughter maintain a sense of order and hope in this ever-changing environment.

Should we find ourselves in the position of having to respond to a COVID-19 positive test result from a member of our community, we will follow the processes communicated in Term 2. However, the flow chart attached is possibly a relevant document for you to keep at hand for easy reference.

You will have received communication from the Heads of School providing you with details of return-to-school information and upcoming events. The campus is looking really beautiful after the winter rain and I'm sure the girls will enjoy the ability to once again participate in team sports and other outside events now that further restrictions on students' interactions have been relaxed. The calendar for Term 3 across the School continues to be adjusted as we seek to confirm new dates for rescheduled events. We are mindful that rescheduling can pose a number of issues, particularly when families have students both at St Hilda's and at our brother school TSS. Please be assured that we endeavour to work together to identify and resolve issues which arise, but given the length of each term and the number of events across year levels this is not always possible.

We are very much looking forward to having the School fully engaged next week in all our programs. Having our Boarders return to Whitby, McCulloch, Darragh and Rosemary Hughes will reinvigorate the campus of a morning and evening as they re-engage with the Day Girls in preparation for QGSSSA winter sports and make their way to Prep Sessions in the Library in the evening. A number of new families are joining our community and I know in advance that your daughters will do all they can to assist with the transition period. I look forward to sharing this next stage of our very full and vibrant year with you and your family.

On a concluding note, can I please ask you to keep in your thoughts and prayers all those who are unable to be with us as the term gets underway, those who have faced loss, illness or political unrest during our time apart.

Warm regards

Wendy Lauman

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

Principal



COVID-19 Process for Parents

If your daughter is unwell with COVID-19 symptoms at School, she will be isolated somewhere comfortable, supervised, and you will be called to collect her.

You will be recommended to take your daughter to be assessed by a doctor, and if she is tested for COVID-19 you will be required to complete the COVID-19 Testing Notification Form, so we can monitor members of our community that are tested.

POSITIVE TEST RESULT

NEGATIVE TEST RESULT

Immediately inform the School of the test result:

Junior School - Mrs Shuttlewood
Middle/Senior School - Ms Horner

The School will follow the direction of the Gold Coast Public Health Unit and will keep all students in their classes where it is safe to do so.

Communication will go to parents informing them of the positive case, and that further instructions will follow.

Once GC Public Health Unit have completed any contact tracing required onsite, the School will begin a staggered pickup for students. Supervision will be provided if you cannot collect your daughter.

The School will be closed the following day to students and staff for cleaning, with classes recommencing the next day.

The student may return to the School once they are symptom free unless they have been issued with a Direction to Isolate by GC Public Health Unit.

This process will be reviewed following any additional advice from Gold Coast Public Health Unit or the Chief Health Office.