



ST HILDA'S SCHOOL GOLD COAST

From the Interim Principal

23 March 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers,

This new week has begun with the Federal and State Governments continuing to discuss the continued operation of schools in light of other measures being currently applied to manage COVID-19. No doubt this state of affairs has the potential to create confusion and concern for families who are endeavouring to process the implications of ongoing announcements.

We acknowledge that for many, recent announcements will have implications on their businesses and their family. Working together will enable us to support each other through the current challenges - please continue to stay in touch and feel supported knowing we are here to listen and work with you.

Talking to your daughters

For young people, exposure to constant media updates and the uncertainty brought about by continuous change can result in a range of responses. I would encourage parents to engage with some of the resources currently available online from *Emerging Minds* and *Beyond Blue*, which could be helpful in both looking after worries your daughter may be carrying and looking after yourself.

Our school day continues to provide a sense of normality, albeit that precautions we have in place for personal hygiene and social distancing may influence the way the girls are experiencing school. Student attendance remains positive which is underpinned by the calmness with which everyone is going about their routines. We have been supportive of family decisions where students have departed from Boarding to ensure their travel home, and where reasons for absence have been communicated to the Head of School.

Travel arrangements for our Boarders continue to evolve as advice is received on ability to access flights. We thank Boarding families for their communication with the Boarding House and your willingness to review arrangements as circumstances change, whether that be for flights, bus travel or homestay arrangements. Please be assured that if the government calls for schools to close in Queensland, the Boarding House will remain open until all students have been able to return home.

eSafety

When we transition to Online Learning, we envisage that as far as possible, students will follow a normal school timetable each day. Online protocols will be made available to students and parents to assist with the safety and delivery of off-campus learning. Your assistance during this time to help your daughter with this change will be most valuable.

Support Services

If you require further assistance with support services, the following organisations can be of assistance:

- Headspace: <https://headspace.org.au>
- Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800 or: <https://kidshelpline.com.au>
- Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>
- ParentLine on 1300 30 1300 or: <https://www.parentline.com.au>
- Child Safety Services: <https://www.communities.qld.gov.au/childsafety/child-safety-services>
- Domestic and family violence support services: <https://www.qld.gov.au/community/getting-support-health-social-issue/domestic-family-violence/>
- Family and Child Connect on 13 32 64 or: <http://www.familychildconnect.org.au/index.asp>

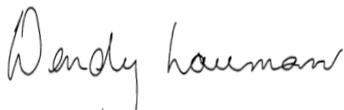
Our Heads of School will provide further updates on specific sub-school information to assist you further.

I close this update with a prayer which can often assist to centre us during uncertain times.

*God of grace and love,
we give thanks for the gift of our lives and for the hope that comes from faith in you.
As we face an uncertain future, renew us each day and give us courage;
Help us to be wise, compassionate, and creative.
We pray for your blessing particularly
on all who are serving in the frontline of medical care,
and those who are working to develop a vaccine.
We pray in the name of the one who healed the sick,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen*

Let's continue to rally around each other and keep our spirits up.

Yours sincerely

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

Wendy Lauman
MEd, BEd, CertTh, AACM(Td), AIMM, MACEL
Interim Principal