



BRISBANE WATER SECONDARY COLLEGE

Dear Parents, carers and students,

This has been a time of great challenge for schools. We have been asked to respond in a manner that we could not have imagined. What we perceived to be normal in education has shifted dramatically and the education system has been asked to reinvent itself in the matter of a few weeks. The shift from face to face to online learning for all students has meant for our teachers a complete rethink of what they do.

Brisbane Water Secondary College is united in the delivery of online learning for our students. We are one College two campuses and there is daily communication collaboration between the three Principals. All decision making is based on the collective intelligence and experience of all three Principals.

The immediate needs of all our students, parents and carers is the same, in that we still need, to provide support for physical and emotional development of our students as well as creating new quality online learning experiences. Holistically the needs of our students are the same but, how we approach the learning needs of student in years 7 to 9 have always differed to how we approach teaching and learning for students in the years 10-12. Knowing this, the models of delivery of online learning and working from home have needed to be different.

The needs of the students on the Umina Campus middle school setting are different to those on the Woy Woy Campus setting. The senior students are still expected to maintain the rigour of study that is, required to complete the Higher School Certificate (HSC) and/or Pathways Education. The HSC 2020, at this stage will go ahead as planned, with the expectation that delivery of the curriculum and student assessments, will be modified for online learning and will still occur. There is very little flexibility in student learning expectations for our HSC and Pathways students. The Umina Campus is allowed to have more flexibility in the delivery of student learning. There are no external examinations to prepare for, with student assessment being entirely school based in 2020. Teachers have more freedom to design learning experiences to meet the learning outcomes.

A paradigm shift has occurred and we have had little time prepare. We are asked to adjust our procedures and ways of thinking on a daily basis. Teachers in the College have risen to the challenge and have adjusted to new demanding expectations. I would like to draw your attention to the work of each and every teacher who have implemented positive change, embracing the positive mindset, positive growth models that we teach our students. The professional dedication across the College is to be highly commended.

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The wider community is unified and my relationship with Rotary, Bendigo Bank, Chamber of Commerce and many business supporters of the College are examples of how we have supported education, sport and young people in this community. Collectively we know that many amongst us have lost jobs, had work hours cut and we are about to experience wide scale family and community disadvantage. It is important that we continue to reach out to each other, look after each other and be patient with each other. We want to assist you if we can, not only to continue to support your child's education but also you and your family.

As a College and a community we are one, unified in delivering continued learning for our youth. We are supporting each other in a time large scale disruption and confusion. Together we can minimise the pandemonium that we are experiencing.

I would like to acknowledge the tireless dedication and commitment of Rebecca Cooper and Kerrie O'Heir. BWSC has responded to this crisis with minimal disruption and it has been their leadership and vision that has allowed for the implementation of effective new strategies to support teachers to adjust, to the new normal and students to continue learning in new ways.

The Easter holidays will allow us time to adjust and prepare for term two. It is expected that working from home will continue. I wish for each of you a restful and peaceful Easter break.

Paul Gilmore
College Principal

BWSC
RESPECT
COMMITMENT
RELATIONSHIPS

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