



Thursday 9th April 2020

Dear Parents/ Caregivers and Students,

This year has seen the world as we know it turned completely upside down as a result of the impact of COVID-19. As a country, community and individuals we have battled devastating fires, choking smoke haze and floods in quick succession before the global onslaught of the pandemic. Our response, as a community, has been swift and hopefully effective.

In the last few weeks we have transformed the educational experience for our students, their families, the teachers and the teaching profession as a whole. The move from classrooms and face-to-face teaching to online and remote has meant we have had to take a risk, collaborate and communicate, problem solve, fail, try again and challenge our learning. In fact we have had to utilise the future focused skills we have been planning for and beginning to roll out in our existing structure. However, they say '*necessity is the mother of invention*' and the repercussions of this pandemic have certainly precipitated an enormous shift in the social and educational landscape creating an authentic and urgent space to utilise these skills.

Students have had to navigate their own learning without the immediacy, support and collegiality of the classroom environment. Parents have had to juggle the needs of their own work whether it has to be from home, or in a risky environment, or has disappeared altogether, with the online and remote learning needs of their children. Educators have had to restructure and deliver teaching and learning in a remote and online space where the building of relationships between learning partners has been integral to success.

No wonder we're all exhausted!

The Easter holiday is now upon us. I am proud of all my staff at Umina Campus and across the College as a whole for their work in their planning ready to deliver online and remote learning for Term 2.

My message to all the students at BWSC Umina Campus is very simple:

1. Take a break! You have earned it.
2. Be kind to each other and your families.
3. STAY AT HOME!! If we're going to flatten the curve we must all do this. Contact your friends via social media but not in person.

We've missed you all but we want you to continue to be safe and happy.

Yours sincerely
Kerrie O'Heir
Principal