



Tuesday 7th April 2020

Dear Parent/Caregiver

As we begin the final week of Term 1 2020, it is hard to imagine a more profound shift in our world, caused by COVID-19. The reverberations of the pandemic continue to be felt throughout our society and how we live. Education in particular has made a quantum leap into authentic future focused learning and formative assessment practices through necessity dictated by circumstance. I know my knowledge and skills in technology are currently being challenged and extended as we develop and refine online learning to meet student learning needs. I am most grateful for the team of expert staff at BWSC Umina Campus who share their knowledge, skills and creativity in developing learning opportunities and experiences for our students.

Online and Remote Learning

Currently we are finalising the learning packages (both online and hard copy) for Weeks 1-5 Term 2. This has been a real learning curve for us all as we continue to translate face to face teaching into an online format. We have had a number of questions from parents around how they manage this process at home. Communication between teachers and students in the teaching and learning space is very different remotely. Please read the following points as they may help in understanding the changes in communication:

- Online - teachers will be providing feedback to students. This won't necessarily be a mark for every item submitted. Face to face teaching allows for verbal feedback. Online it may be a thumbs up or emoji. Not all feedback is formal or represented by a mark. This is reserved for assessment tasks.
- Teachers in a high school can be teaching up to 150 students. Direct contact with parents will only occur if the teacher has a concern they need to speak to you about. If you have to communicate with your child's teacher, please call the school on 43419066 or email the school marking it 'Attention' and the teacher's name.
- Students who are learning via hard copy packages or not logging on if learning online, may receive a call to the parent to see if the school can help in any way. Please let us know if there is anything we can help you with – curriculum, welfare, wellbeing, contact with outside agencies, counselling.

You are all doing a wonderful job. It is very difficult when you are working from home and have children doing the same. We understand, as many teachers are doing the same with their families. Remember you are providing the environment, the routine and the support for your children.

Advice for Parents and Carers

Parents and carers can access information about their role in setting up work stations for their children and providing learning support. These can be downloaded from the [Parents and Carers section](#) of the [Learning from Home hub](#). A reminder that the Department of Education website has answers to [frequently asked questions](#) for specific groups. We have also posted on Facebook and sent home via School Bytes two documents from the Department of Education 'Learning Environment Checklist' and 'Remote Learning Guidelines for Students and Parents'. These are quick reminders to support learning at home.

.../2

UMINA CAMPUS

Veron Road UMINA NSW 2257

P 02 4341 9066

E umina-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Year 8 Snow Trip Cancellation

The Year 8 Snow Trip has unfortunately had to be cancelled for 2020. We are very disappointed we've had to do this however in the current situation no excursions can run and service providers are also unable to operate. We have had some suggestions as to the viability of a later event. We will continue to monitor the current situation before determining if another experience can be offered in the future. All money paid to date will be refunded to families. Please make sure your contact details are up to date so we can expedite this process.

Holidays

The Easter break begins at the end of this week. I would like to encourage all students and their families to make sure you take a break. It is very likely that students will continue with learning online and remotely throughout Term 2. There are no expectations on parents and students to complete learning activities during the two week holiday break. I would encourage reading for enjoyment and staying home and safe. Teachers will be spending time with their families and there is no expectation on them to be providing feedback during the holiday period. It is a time to recharge, reconnect and recover.

Thank you all for the wonderful support you continue to provide your children in this new teaching and learning environment.

Take care.

Kind regards

Kerrie O'Heir
Principal
BWSC Umina Campus