

23 March 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Our priority as a school is to focus on the wellbeing and continuity of learning for our young people by maintaining as much consistency as possible in the current circumstances. At the same time, we have a commitment to ensuring our staff can effectively be that support by establishing clear expectations of what their core responsibilities are.

We are also conscious that many of our families are also employed in essential services and we thank you for your tireless work especially those of you in the front line in health and medical services.

Many of you who are keeping up to date with the latest recommendations from the National Cabinet and SA Health would note that social distancing recommendations and expectations continue to adjust as the pandemic develops.

As a school we are considered an essential service, thus the social distancing requirements do not apply in the same manner as they do to non-essential services. Despite this, we are putting in the following strategies to prioritise social distancing and effective hygiene practices:

- Scheduled breaks to reduce crowding at lockers and recess and lunch
- Social distancing at the canteen line with markers to separate students
- Canteen staff have been disinfecting tables before and after breaks in the courtyard
- The spacing of students in classrooms and avoidance of face to face seating where possible
- Handwashing in practical subjects and modifications to lessons where shared resources are required
- Student services sign-in process adapted to limit students touching screens
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- The sign-in process has been adapted so that students and staff are not using touch-screens
- Postponed all pre-service teachers and non-essential staff including service providers accessing the school site, effectively shutting down our school borders
- All facilities hiring has ceased to ensure facilities are clean and accessed by our student and staff community only

As an essential service, we are critical in ensuring other essential service staff such as our health and medical services can continue. We continue to follow the guidelines and directions of The Department for Education, SA Health and National Cabinet and adjust our practices as those directions and recommendations change.

In the event of a confirmed COVID-19 case from our school, we have plans in place to respond if it were to occur during the day or after hours. Once again thank you for updating your contact details to ensure we can get in contact with you promptly. In the event of a closure during the school day, we are sending a hard copy consent letter home with every student tomorrow to nominate the preferred method of early release and a copy via email.

We are very proud of the manner in which our staff are demonstrating on a daily basis their commitment to the wellbeing and learning of your children, often going above and beyond and adjusting the way we are working on a daily basis in response the required changes.

We reiterate that at this time, our priority is to ensure the teaching and learning occurring at school is ongoing and that we continue to support our young people in their wellbeing at this increasingly stressful time. At the same time, we are preparing for remote learning in the case of extended school closure. One action we have taken to support our preparation is to dedicate the time of Lauren Owen, our Digital Learning Leader for the next 3 weeks. Lauren has been released from her classes to develop resources and support staff and students to deliver remote teaching and learning, if or when it is required. In the meantime, as previously communicated, staff will continue to record all lesson instructions and required resources on Daymap for students both at school and those absent.

Any absence should be communicated via the hotline or email to absences@brighton.sa.edu.au rather than the Homegroup teacher, classroom teacher or to Year Level Managers. At this stage, it is not possible to respond to every individual regarding an absence. Again all lesson and learning notes are on Daymap so students who are absent should be referring to their class notes and homework.

Kind regards,



Tony Lunniss
Principal