

30 March 2020

Dear Parents & Caregivers,

We are all experiencing a range of challenges at present given COVID-19 and the situation changing on a daily basis.

At this stage, as a school, we remain open and although attendance has reduced over the past few weeks, we still had significant numbers of students attending last week. For many of our students school is essential at this time. For some it is because parents are working and unable to supervise them at home and for others because the ongoing connection with friends and staff helps to maintain a sense of normality at this time of significant disruption in their lives and education.

Following last night's National Cabinet, more parents may choose to keep children home. Although we expect attendance to reduce further this week, school is still available for any students wishing to attend. Where class numbers are extremely low classes may be combined, but social distancing will still be applied.

The Minister for Education recently announced that Week 11 (Monday April 6 to Thursday April 9) has been designated as student-free in order for schools to plan and prepare for new models of learning that can be delivered consistently to students at home and at school.

As discussed in earlier communications, we have been developing and preparing our online platforms while continuing to provide face-to-face teaching and learning at school. Many teachers are already using a blended model of delivery in some classes, utilising a combination of video-conferencing and classroom-based approaches. All teachers are building their skills and confidence in using Microsoft Teams, the interactive platform we

will be using alongside Daymap, our learner management system. Our staff continue to demonstrate their commitment to providing the best teaching and learning possible.

During this week we will be supporting all of our teachers to incorporate blended approaches into their practice and time has been provided today and tomorrow, alongside scheduled lessons, for this to take place. From Wednesday onwards, teachers will begin to apply blended models of learning and identify aspects for particular focus during the week 11 pupil free days.

As a school, our absolute priority is to maintain continuity of learning for all of our students during the upcoming period of time, regardless of the circumstances.

We are also committed to providing wellbeing support for students through Home Group and year level structures, as well as a range of services from our Wellbeing Team, including individual support and proactive wellbeing programs.

While there are challenges ahead for us all, Brighton Secondary School will be here to support our entire school community in terms of both learning and wellbeing.

We will continue to provide you with updated information about resources and services as they are developed and made available.

I hope you and your family are coping as well as possible in the current environment.

Kind regards



Tony Lunniss
Principal

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