



BRISBANE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

COVID-19 UPDATE FROM HEADMASTER

Friday 20 March

Dear BGS Community,

Brisbane Grammar School remains open.

The School continues to follow the advice from government and health authorities on the status of our school operations. As announced by the Prime Minister on 18 March 2020, the most recent health advice is that schools remain open.

To date there is **no** confirmed student or staff case of COVID-19 at BGS; however, the virus continues to reshape our operations. As I walked around the campus this week, I was reminded of the critical role schools play in the wellbeing of communities. There is a different atmosphere here at present – people are nervous, and understandably so.

I want to acknowledge that everyone in the BGS community shares that uneasiness. Recognising that feeling anxious is entirely valid and staying calm is critical to supporting each other through these uncertain times.

I am very grateful to BGS staff for working incredibly hard, through difficult and complex changes. I want to thank the students for their patience and composure; the parents for their measured reaction to this development; and the Board of Trustees for their support of the School's Leadership Team.

We have endeavoured to communicate openly and often. As parents make reasonable decisions regarding school attendance, we are preparing for the delivery of curriculum in an online environment. There are divergent views within our community, and we have been appreciative of the communication with parents, most of which has been characterised by support and understanding.

Curriculum Continuity Plan

On Wednesday afternoon I shared the [BGS Curriculum Continuity Plan](#), which outlines the mechanisms used to transition to the delivery of the curriculum online. Learning will continue, but it will be different if the School closes. Specific details of the learning block schedule and student expectations will be shared on Tuesday 24 March.

Your support and understanding are essential to assisting our students in making this transition effectively.

Please note that from Thursday 26 March to Friday 3 April, students have the option to attend school or stay at home and follow the curriculum online.

To facilitate this transition, the next two weeks look like this:

Monday 23 March	Normal on-campus classes will continue.
Tuesday 24 March	<p>Years 5 and 6 normal on-campus classes all day.</p> <p>Years 7 and 8 normal on-campus classes Periods 1-4, then after lunch on-campus online study skills program.</p> <p>Years 9-12 normal classes Periods 1-4, then as scheduled Periods 5-6 Independent Study Afternoon. Students will be required to work from home. Those unable to go home will work from The Lilley Centre.</p> <p>All Year 9-12 students will be required to logon at 2.00pm for the final two lessons of the day, so that we can test systems capability and the boys can practise using <i>Teams</i> from remote locations.</p>
Wednesday 25 March	Normal school day for all year levels.
Thursday 26 March	<p>Normal timetable will cease, and students will change to online learning from home or school. Parents may choose either option for their son(s).</p> <p>Staff will be on-campus to supervise and assist students.</p>
Friday 27 March	<p>Online learning from home or school. Parents may choose either option for their son(s).</p> <p>Staff will be on-campus to supervise and assist students.</p>
Monday 30 March – Tuesday 31 March	<p>Online learning from home or school. Parents may choose either option for their son(s).</p> <p>Staff be on-campus to supervise and assist students.</p>
Wednesday 1 April – Friday 3 April	<p>There will be no online delivery of curriculum from Wednesday – Friday. Students will work independently.</p> <p>Teaching staff will continue to develop the online curriculum for Term 2 in case the School is closed for an extended period.</p> <p>Staff will be on-campus to supervise students.</p>

Parents and students will also appreciate advice regarding assessment. After lengthy deliberations and review of Queensland Curriculum Assessment Authority (QCAA) guidelines, the following decisions have been made:

Assessment: Year 12

- All assignments are still to be submitted by the due date. The School's usual processes for applying for an extension, via an AARA application, must be adhered to.
- Examinations for Mathematical Methods and Geography will be deferred to a date in Term 2 (TBA).

Assessment: Years 5 – 11

- Examinations scheduled up to and including Wednesday 25 March will occur as outlined in the Assessment Schedule.
- Any exams scheduled between 25 March and 3 April for students in Year 5 to 11 will be cancelled.
- Assignments are still to be submitted online by the due date. Any student in Years 5 to 11 requiring an extension for an assignment should contact the relevant Head of Department.
- End of Semester reports will be modified as required to fairly reflect individual circumstances.

For the latest information on how COVID-19 is affecting the different areas of BGS – including event cancellations – please click on the relevant link below:

- [Academic Updates](#)
- [Cocurricular Updates](#)
- [Community Events Updates](#)

If BGS needs to close due to COVID-19, parents and guardians should follow the [BGS Procedure for Shutdown](#).

As we are all aware, the status of this COVID-19 crisis is unprecedented and BGS Senior Leadership will continue to review and update you regularly. We plan to re-open the School at the commencement of Term 2; however, we are prepared to continue the delivery of the curriculum in an online environment if required and advised by government authorities.

To read the School's latest updates on the issue, please visit the [COVID-19 Advice for the BGS Community](#) page on the BGS website.

Kind regards,

Anthony Micallef
Headmaster