



COVID-19 update – 20/3/2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As a school, we are regularly updated by the Department of policy changes as a result of announcements from our state and federal politicians. This information refines the broad advice provided and allows the school to contextualise the available information. These updates provide me with the opportunity to share information with parents and caregivers that is current and up to date at that time. Since I last wrote to you on 18 March there have been a number of changes.

Social Media

Recently false reports of student's being diagnosed by Covid-19 were posted on social media. We have been able to identify those students responsible and dealt with them appropriately. Should any such diagnoses be made, **you will hear directly from me** via email and/or text message. We will not advise you via social media nor with media outlets advise the community. I cannot stress enough the importance of this means of contact as social media is not a reliable source of fact and is more likely to create panic in our community.

NAPLAN 2020

You may well be aware that the NAPLAN Testing for students across Australia has been cancelled for 2020, including any practice testing. A communique was sent out to all States and Territories this morning regarding the news, which is included for you at the end of this letter.

Schools across Australia, including Duncraig SHS have been planning and resourcing for NAPLAN 2020 throughout the year, up to and including this morning prior to receiving the notification of cancellation.

At this early stage we do not know what this means in terms of pre-qualifying (reaching Band 8 or higher in Year 9) for the literacy & numeracy component of WACE for our students. Once we are provided with guidance about this we will communicate with you.

Essentially, this news has been well received by the education community and it is a common sense decision given the current issues we face.

International Travel reminder

Since the announcement last weekend by the Prime Minister, the travel ban has now been expanded to Level 4 'Do not Travel' and any non-resident will not be allowed to arrive in Australia. For further information please see the [Smartraveller](https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/) website.

Updates to Mass Gatherings

This afternoon the Australian Government has announced further measures relating to the gatherings of 100 or fewer in enclosed space. The Government is now recommending four square metres per person. **THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO SCHOOLS.**

The School Ball has been postponed to 23 July 2020. Our Year 12 students demonstrated exemplary understanding and maturity at hearing this news as we can all appreciate how important this social event is to any graduating class. We will continue to monitor the situation in the coming months.

Reminder - The Progress Reporting Day on Thursday 2nd April will not go ahead in its current format. Instead, I encourage parents who have concerns about their child's progress to contact their child's teachers via SEQTA to arrange a time that is convenient for both parents and teachers throughout the year.

This will still remain a student free day as we will use the day to further plan and build our capacity to offer online learning resources, should the school close. Please look out for further updates regarding this day. Students may be required to work from home to test our online lesson capabilities.

Online Curriculum Materials

The Education Department is working on creating support materials complement what is happening in schools. These resources will be made available to parents on a public website from Monday 23rd March.

Duncraig is also working to increase the amount of resources available on SEQTA. Maths, English, Science and HASS courses all have an online text available through SEQTA. We are continuing to expand other resources that will support learning from home if school closures occur.

Hygiene Measures

We continue to provide sanitation in the school on a daily basis.

All classrooms and public areas were distributed hand sanitiser last week and we are trying to secure further stock however it is a difficult item to secure as you would understand by the empty shelves in supermarkets.

As reported this week, we have had a number of our bathrooms vandalised. The bathrooms were cleaned and opened as soon as possible and student and teacher monitoring has been increased as to protect our valuable stock of toilet paper and soap and keep the bathrooms operational. Any student found to be vandalising school property is dealt with appropriately as per our School Behaviour policy

We are encouraging social distancing of students and actively spreading student around the grounds of the school.

Contact Information Update

Thank you to all of those who have sent in their updated information. We have been overwhelmed by the response and have employed extra staff to assist with updating the information as quickly as possible. If you have not yet returned yours, please do so as quickly as possible. At this time, it is so important that we have your correct contact details including email and mobile phone numbers as mass communication is our preferred method and required in any urgent matters. Please check your email including your Spam/Junk folders and email duncraig.shs.admin@education.wa.edu.au of any changes in contact details.

I appreciate that these are unique times. We will continue to provide the best possible education we can for our community whilst complying with Government policy. The current focus is on minimising and preventing transmission and making sure our school system is prepared. I ask for everyone to be patient and supportive as we continue to navigate our way through this. My thoughts continue to be with those families, both locally and abroad, who have been affected by this pandemic.

Lastly, I would like to reinforce the need for parents to keep students home if they are feeling sick or unwell.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Lillywhite', with a long, sweeping underline.

PETER LILLYWHITE
Principal

20 March 2020