



Dear Parents,

As many of you would be aware, there has been some updates from the Department of Health and the Education Department in regards to taking necessary precautions in slowing the transmission of COVID-19. Outlined below is the key information and the response we have taken as a school.

International Travel

On Sunday 15 March, the Prime Minister introduced measures placed on international arrivals into Australia. This means a mandatory 14 day self-isolation requirement was placed on all international arrivals into Australia effective from midnight (EST).

As a result, all international school excursions are banned therefore, our upcoming Band Tour to New Zealand in July has been cancelled.

The National Cabinet also endorses the advice of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee ([AHPPC](#)) today to introduce social distancing measures.

The [Smartraveller](#) level advice for all Australian's travelling overseas has been upgraded to a level 3 – 'reconsider your need for overseas travel' at this time. In addition to this, some countries remain at a level 4 – 'do not travel'.

Regardless of the destination, age or health of the traveller, if the overseas travel is not essential, the Australian Government has asked people reconsider.

Mass Gatherings

As you would be aware, the Australian Government has announced that all organised, **non-essential mass gatherings attended by more than 500 people** must be cancelled effective from Monday 16 March 2020.

The announcement was very clear that there is no need for school closures.

At this stage, we will **continue to go ahead with our upcoming Year 12 School Ball** as the total numbers in attendance will not exceed the Mass Gathering regulations. However, we are guided by the Education Department with new updates occurring daily.

We will also continue with Year Group Assemblies, only if required, but holding them in larger venues in an attempt to accommodate social distancing measures or we will utilise alternative modes of delivery.

Recess and Lunch Break

We will be allowing students to maintain their current break conditions, encouraging them to maintain some social distancing. Due to our large student population, we are unable to accommodate segregated breaks. Logistically, we are unable to create an equitable solution, therefore, we will focus on our core business of learning and allow all classes to run as normal allowing even curriculum delivery across all Year groups.

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.

Continued teaching and learning

At present, all classes will continue to run as normal. As a school, we are planning for all scenarios, including potential school closure. My priority will be to support Year 11 and 12 students. We are working with Education Department to have additional resources available. SEQTA will continue to be the first port of call for students to access, course outlines, syllabus information and resources such as e-books. We will do all we can to maintain communication with students and provide learning resources to support their continued education.

Hygiene Measures

In response to Health Department of WA information around hand hygiene we have implemented a number of strategies to proactively protect against the occurrences of Covid19 in the school.

- Over 300 **posters** have been printed, laminated and put around the school to draw the attention of staff and students to personal hygiene.
- Via assembly or in form last week, staff have shown a hand washing [video](#) to students to demonstrate correct procedures to maintain hand hygiene.
- Additional **soap** supplies have been put into all student bathrooms across the school, however, a small number of students have not valued the current necessity and caused some damage and wastage. The only way to guarantee that your child will have access to soap available will be to bring their own.
- Extra boxes of **tissues** have been distributed to all classrooms.
- **Cleaning** staff have increased the frequency of cleaning desks, light switches, door handles, rails etc during their cleaning shift each day.
- **Hand sanitiser** has been distributed to each class teacher, however, due to ongoing supply issues the only way to guarantee that your child will have sanitiser available will be to bring their own.

Contact Information Update

We are in the process of sending Student Update Forms home via email. At this time it is imperative 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. Please advise duncraig.shs.admin@education.wa.edu.au of any changes in contact details as soon as possible and we thank those parents and caregivers who have already sent the information to us.

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

17 March 2020