

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update #8 – 25 March 2020

Our continuing priority is the health, safety and wellbeing of all members of our community. Therefore, after much consideration and consultation, we have decided to close our school for face-to-face learning.

We have made the decision to finish Term 1 this Friday, 27 March at 3:20pm, bringing forward the Easter Holidays to start on Monday 30 March 2020 for a three-week break.

Why have we made this decision now?

There are currently over 40% of students away and an increasing number of our staff are also needing to be away due to their health concerns or those of family members.

We have said in the past we will wait until the Government tells us to close, however we now realise it is no longer in the best interest of our community to remain open.

Why go straight into holidays and not into online learning?

- This additional week of Easter holidays is a direct swap for the first week of the June/July holiday break - reducing that break to 2 weeks.
- We are anticipating the additional week of school in June/July will be in a face to face environment.
- Our teachers will use next week to refine unit outlines and additional teaching resources eliminating the need for any additional pupil free days in Term 2.
- Year 12 would have also been on their Outdoor Education Camp which has been moved to June/July.

My child has exams or assessment due next week, what will happen?

No assessment will be due beyond Friday 27 March until Term 2. This includes Year 11 end of term exams next week. We will ensure our students will not be disadvantaged by this decision.

I work in essential services or I can't take time off at short notice? What will I do?

For all of our families, particularly those who are front line health care workers, we are considering offering you a solution for the care of your Year 7 to 10 children during this additional first week of the holidays. Please click [here](#) to register your expression of interest for this option by 3:00pm Thursday 26 March.

When will I send my children back to school?

The first day of Term 2 is Monday 20 April. At this stage it is likely that learning at home via our remote learning platform Hillbrook@Home will commence at the start of Term 2. We will keep you updated regarding any changes to this during the holiday break.

All the information you will need as a parent to prepare for remote learning will be sent to you next week. Your children have trialled our systems and we believe they are comfortable with the process and will receive their Term 2 timetable and study materials during the holidays.

We have not made this decision lightly, but believe it is in best interests of everyone in our community.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. The Administration Team and School Leadership Team will be available if you need any further clarification. You can contact us by phone on 3354 3422 or by replying to this email.

We will continue to provide you with regular updates about the coronavirus situation and any impact on our community.

Yours sincerely
School Leadership Team