



Dear Families and Caregivers

Term 2 Update

It's during times of adversity where we get to experience the best in our community and we, at Willunga High School, have certainly appreciated the support we have received as we take this opportunity to change how we go about our work and continue to support our students to achieve to their highest potential. Our primary purpose at Willunga High School is to ensure the highest possible academic, social and emotional outcomes for our students.

Despite the obvious discomfort and tragedy involved in the COVID-19 pandemic, there are always silver linings to times of adversity. The environment thrust upon us presents opportunities for positive change and personal development and we need to grasp these as they come along. Dealing with adversity promotes the development of resilience and determination amongst our students, staff and community and also promotes innovation in the way we provide learning opportunities and as we emerge from the restrictions and anxieties of the pandemic, we will all benefit from this. It is important to remember that this is a short term concern that will end in the near future. We continue to encourage families to contact us should you need support regarding the impact the current situation is having on the learning or wellbeing of your children.

The Federal and State Government advice continues to be that it is safe to send your children to school and so, unless there is a significant change in the current situation Willunga High School will be open for all students. 35% of the families who responded to the survey sent out last term indicated that they would be sending their students to school in term 2 if the pandemic conditions had not changed. While we respect the choice of families to choose to keep their children home we encourage families and students without the published health risk factors to send their children to school.

It is critical at this time to ensure that even though students are not at school they still need to attend to their learning. With the prospect of only 35% of our student population at school for our return in term 2 we will continue to implement the learning environment that we put in place at the end of last term. That being combined lessons for years 8, 9 and 10 students with access to specialist teachers to support their self-directed learning and Stage 1 and 2 classes running in their scheduled lesson times with access to their class teachers.

In the last week of term our staff worked collaboratively to develop and upload consistent year 8 to 10 programs into SEQTA, while those teaching Stage 1 and 2 subjects worked to adapt their teaching programs. These programs are designed to facilitate the blended learning model that we are embarking on which, it is intended, can be engaged with at home, with support, or at school. There are clear assessment tasks and due dates in the program for students which must be adhered to.

Each teacher can be contacted via SEQTA direct message (students) or email (families) and they will endeavour to respond to each student's individual learning needs as soon as possible but we must also be mindful that they themselves are parents or have other duties outside of the normal school day. Our teachers need to look after their own health and wellbeing so they can perform at their best in their professional duties, and care for their own families.

We are exploring ways to provide access to laptops and internet for those families who are unable to provide that for their children. We will contact those families individually. Please make sure that your children and young people are continuing their learning, completing their assignments and submitting their work. We are continuing to improve the online learning resources, which will include parent and student guides to blended learning, on the [SEQTA page](#) of our website that can support students and families with their learning at home.

As advice we receive changes or is updated, we examine and review the measures we have in place and make any necessary changes to ensure that we have the safest environment for students and staff. It is also our intent to continue to keep you informed through regular updates. If, in the meantime, you have any questions or comments, please contact me via the school on 8557 0100.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony van Ruiten".

Anthony van Ruiten  
Principal  
17 April 2020