



Dear Families and Caregivers

Teaching and Learning Update

In South Australia we are certainly fortunate to be in a place where the spread of the COVID-19 virus has been contained and we now no longer have any active cases in our state. The Department for Education yesterday shared the expectation that all students return to their regular schooling, stating:

“Students are required to attend school unless they are:

- *Feeling unwell*
- *Have a chronic medical condition or compromised immune system and are not able to attend school on advice from their medical practitioner*
- *Live in a household with others that are deemed vulnerable to COVID-19 and are not able to attend school on advice of their medical practitioner*
- *Have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or have been required to self-isolate by SA Health”*

The compulsory schooling age in South Australia is 17 so all students who are 17 or under are required, by law, to attend school.

At Willunga High School we are particularly thankful for the confidence our families\caregivers have shown in us by encouraging their children to return to school. We now have a student attendance rate nearing 90%. With this in mind our teachers have been increasingly turning their attention to the students in their classes and providing more direct face to face instruction. We have made the decision to continue with the delivery of the curriculum collaboratively developed by our teachers for the blended learning model so that there would not be any further disruption should there be a resurgence of the virus in our state. We have also determined that we will have our change of semester over the end of term 2 holidays to allow teachers and students to make up for any disruption to learning caused by the pandemic.

As we are now expecting students to be present at school we will no longer be sending an SMS regarding home schooling. For students who are absent the normal absence procedure will be in place. We will now be recording students as absent due to illness or for family/social reasons rather than home study when a child is reported as absent from school.

Contacting the school when your child is absent is a crucial part of assisting us to support your child’s learning and we ask that all families and caregivers do this for each day their child is absent from school, giving reasons. This can be done by

- contacting the school on 85570104 or 8557 0103
- emailing us at dl.0909.info@schools.sa.edu.au

Minimising the number of days a student is absent from school positively impacts their ability to achieve to their highest potential.

With students returning to school it is timely to remind families that Willunga HS is a full uniform school. I take this opportunity to ask families to ensure their children are at school in appropriate and approved school uniform. Willunga High School has a flexible and accommodating [school uniform policy](#) that has been widely consulted and approved by the school’s governing council. Please be reminded that leggings and active wear are not appropriate school attire and that there are ample suitable options for students to wear in place of these. If families are experiencing difficulties in obtaining items that comply with the uniform expectations please contact your child’s Home Group teacher or Year Level Leader.

All teachers can be contacted via SEQTA direct message (students) or email (families) and they will endeavour to respond to any contact made as soon as possible. All the teaching staff email addresses can be found on our school website by following the [OUR STAFF](#) link on the website home page.

We would like to once again thank our school community and our broader community for supporting us and our students during the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. We encourage families to contact us should you have any queries regarding the current situation and the impact it is having on the learning or wellbeing of your children.

Kind regards


Anthony van Ruiten
Principal
20 May 2020