



LAIDLLEY STATE HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear parents and caregivers

Yesterday I advised you of the Queensland Government decision to add five (5) Student Free Days commencing Monday 30 March 2020.

The department has now provided a letter to be distributed to parents that contain much of the same information I provided yesterday, with some additional information included. This is now included below.

As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, we have been closely following Department of Education directives, which are based on the advice of Queensland Health.

I thank you for your patience as we have worked through these challenging times. Your support has allowed us to maintain a focus on teaching and learning and some normality of routine for the children of our school.

The Queensland Government has announced that an additional five (5) Student Free Days will be in place next week, from Monday 30 March to Friday 3 April inclusive.

This means the Term 1 break will start early for students and your child will not attend school next week, unless they are children of essential workers or vulnerable children, such as those in out-of-home care.

Essential workers are those that must currently continue to attend their workplace during this difficult time and supervision will be provided at our school for children of these workers where required during the week of 30 March to 3 April inclusive.

If you are an essential worker and wish to send your child to school to be supervised next week you must ensure your child is well and not displaying any signs of illness.

A text message will be sent out later today to seek clarification from parents/caregivers whether they are an essential worker, have no other available arrangements and therefore require their child/ren to attend school during the Student Free Days.

The Student Free Days have been provided to allow Queensland state school staff opportunities to plan for the delivery of learning in the event that the education sector needs to move to flexible and remote learning for students at the commencement of Term 2.

Where needed, Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) may be available for children and families over these student free days. This decision is at the discretion of the OSHC provider. This will support parents who are working hard to combat the COVID-19 virus and assure them that their children have access to a safe and secure site outside of school hours. Further information about OSHC availability can be found at <https://www.startingblocks.gov.au/find-child-care/>

School will resume on Monday 20 April unless health advice determines otherwise. Further information on the return of students to school for Term 2 will be provided over the Term 1 break.

If you would like to support your child's learning next week, a newly established learning@home website has been developed by the Department of Education and can be accessed at <https://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/learning-at-home>. This site contains a range of student learning material and other high quality education websites that will help your child's learning.

You are also encouraged to stay informed of the latest health developments relating to COVID-19 by regularly visiting the Queensland Health website: www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19

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I realise these latest developments may create challenges for parents and caregivers, both in terms of disruption for students and for families who need to manage supervision of children at home. Please be assured that the decision has only been taken as a necessary response to the evolving COVID-19 situation.

The Department of Education will continue to keep all principals up-to-date with any further changes to schooling over the coming days and weeks and I will continue to provide parents with this information as it becomes available. Further information sheets for parents has been developed by the Department of Education and can be found [here](#).

Thank you for your understanding as we continue to work together to support and educate your children during this difficult and unprecedented time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Clarkson', written in a cursive style.

Michael Clarkson
Principal, Laidley SHS