

26th March 2020

Special Message to Laidley SHS Parents, Caregivers and Students

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

While schools will remain open, the Term 1 break will start early for students and they will not attend school next week, unless they are children of essential workers or vulnerable children.

For COVID-19 arrangements, vulnerable children could include students who are subject to a youth justice order or currently receiving services from Child Safety, including children who are subject to a child protection order.

Essential workers are those that must currently continue to attend their workplace during this difficult time. This includes early childhood and school staff. Schools have been asked to provide supervision for children of these workers if they attend your school next week.

Students attending school will undertake a supervised program of activities. They will not be participating in regular classes or undertake new learning.

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

State schools will be formally closed for the Term 1 break from the end of Friday, 3 April. Staff will return to work on Monday 20 April unless health advice determines otherwise.

In the event that schools are closed at any time in the future, our school will communicate our continuity of teaching and learning plan and associated instructions and resources to students via their school email and to parents via the email address registered with the school. Alternative arrangements will be made to post materials home if no email address has been provided to the school.

Our school's continuity of teaching and learning plan includes:

- Teachers communicating learning requirements directly with students via their school email account
- Teachers providing work and feedback to students through STILE
- Students independently working on BKSB, an intuitive, self-paced literacy and numeracy focussed software package.
- Children of essential workers and vulnerable children attending school and being supervised by teachers as they undertake their regular online STILE and BKSB lessons online.
- Posting work home to students without internet access.

In addition, a dedicated website is available for parents to support student learning at home during any prolonged period where students do not attend school. This new learning@home site can be found at <https://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/learning-at-home> and provides various two-week units of curriculum resources and many other learning resources that parents can use with their children.

This is a challenging, complex time, the nature of which we have never experienced. As educators and parents, we have the responsibility to role model resilience, generosity and good decision making to our children.

The key to our society defeating this virus lies with our strong personal hygiene habits, our caring and supportive relationships and the willingness to put the safety and wellbeing needs of others equal to our own.



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We must make the necessary sacrifices and follow the strict social distancing requirements outlined by our leaders and health experts for the weeks and months ahead. Thanks to technology, we can remain connected to and support each other as we isolate ourselves in our homes.

I thank you for your patience, understanding and responsible actions during these unprecedented and challenging times.

I will continue to update you as our school and Department responds to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you have any questions, please contact the school at admin@laidleyshs.eq.edu.au or 5466 8922.

Take care of yourselves and your families.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Clarkson', with a long, sweeping underline.

Michael Clarkson
Principal
Laidley SHS