

WAGIN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

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14 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I want to thank you all for your support in what was one of the most unusual starts to a school term we have ever seen. Together, we have been able to make the best of this situation and ensure your child's safety and continuity of learning.

Today, the State Government announced changes to education based on a review of current arrangements and updated health advice. [Health Dept. COVID Update](#).

As of **Monday, 18 May 2020**, all students are expected to attend school, except for those students medically referred to learn from home.

This means students will be either:

- at school;
- have a **medical referral** to learn from home; or
- recorded as **absent** if they do not attend.

Over the last three weeks Wagin DHS has seen 80% of our students return to school with WA's overall attendance averaging 84%, which has been fantastic.

Current health advice states that schools remain safe for staff and students and should remain open. We want to make sure all children get the best education possible, which is why attending school is so important. We are here to make sure all children are learning and there's no doubt, schools are the best place for them to learn.

Vulnerable students/families: For parents with medical advice that their child should not attend school (whether personally or to support a vulnerable family member), we will work with you in partnership with the School of Special Educational Needs: Medical and Mental Health to support your child's learning from home. If you feel your child is in this category, please do not hesitate to contact the school and we will work together on the next steps.

Absent without medical reason: If your child does not attend school without a medical reason, they will be marked as absent and **will not** be provided a learning program.

Health & Hygiene support changes:

- **Cleaning** - The extra cleaning and hygiene practices implemented at the start of Term 2 will continue.

[Our Vision:](#) to provide an empowering environment for life-long learning.

[Whole School Expectations:](#) Be Engaged Use Manners Show Understanding Always Strive

- **Drop off and pick up** - As part of the social distancing measures, we continue to ask parents/carers to drop off and collect children at the school gate and not to enter the school grounds.
- **Late arrivals or early pick-ups / messages to students / drop off lunch or resources / ordering uniforms** - Parents/Guardians, if you wish to make contact with your child during the day please ensure you come directly to the front office, via the Brenda O'Neill Courtyard
- **Non-contact Play** - Physical Education lessons and recess/lunchtime play will require non-contact activities until further advised.
- **Incursions/Excursions/Assemblies** - These are still on hold at the moment. With regards to assemblies, merit certificates will still be awarded on the weeks when an assembly may usually have occurred. Mini class presentations will take the place of assemblies for now.
- **Canteen open hours** - The canteen is only open Monday's, Wednesday's and Friday's at this stage. Some changes to ordering and collection have been put in place to adhere to strict hygiene expectations.

Additional focus areas: With some students having been off school for up to 6 weeks we are pleased that the majority of students have quickly settled back into the school routine. We have been encouraging the students to show pride in their learning, their safety and our school by:

- **getting to school on time;**
- **wearing full school uniform;** and
- demonstrating **safe road practices** by wearing protective head gear and walking scooters, bikes and skateboards on the paths and roads around the school. We would appreciate if you could reinforce these messages at home.

The State Government will continue to make decisions based on the best health advice. We will continue to update you when these decisions are announced. Thank you for your continued support as we move forward.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us on 9861 3200.

Kind regards,



Tracy Pickering
Principal
Wagin DHS