



Principal's Update Wednesday 25 March

Dear Parent/Caregiver

As promised I will write an update each day to try to answer the many emails I receive. Don't stop sending your emails because your feedback is vital to us improving the way we will be delivering our brand new online learning over the next two and half weeks.

1. Firstly I must apologise for the stress caused by the media reporting things incorrectly and the rumours from a range of sources that are just wrong. I need to respond:
 - As I said in my letter yesterday the school is open and will not be closing until the Government say so. Rumours said the school was closing to deliver the new online learning, this is incorrect.
 - VET courses are still running. Vet teacher have worked hard to make accommodations around social distancing and strict hygiene. These are practical competency based courses so they need to continue for students to successfully pass.
 - There have not been any more positive tests for COVID19. Rumour plus a report on at least one news service were wildly incorrect.
 - Students and staff who were originally isolated by SA Health early last week will complete their 14 days of isolation tomorrow (Thursday) and will be able to return into the community on Friday. At this stage all are healthy but I don't want to jinx their last day.
2. How do parents access Google Classroom?
 - During this initial period teachers will mainly be using Google Classroom and Daymap as their main platform. The Google Classroom program allows interaction between students and teachers. For a parent to observe, the simplest way is to ask your child for their log on (school email address: *student first name. last name@uhs.sa.edu.au*) and their password. Much easier than asking a teacher to add you to the classroom.
3. Students must check emails:
 - As I mentioned yesterday we need parents and teachers to work as a team for online learning to improve as we progress through the trial stage. Teachers will provide extra materials and feedback through email so a gentle reminder from parents to students at home will be greatly appreciated.
4. Home Schooling tips from Dr Michael Carr-Gregg
 - High profile child psychologists Dr Michael Carr-Gregg has provided a video to help parents prepare for Home Schooling as the COVID19 restrictions increase. Parents will find this information helpful.
 - https://uhs.sa.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-preparing-homeschooling
5. Wellbeing Team support:
 - Wellbeing Coordinators Alyce Spicer and Andrew Hall have asked me to let parents know they are available to talk to students in this very emotional and testing time. They are more than happy to be contacted by email to set up private phone conversations.
6. Headphones for school
 - Students staying at school will access their online lessons from their individual desk in Supervised Study. Therefore they will need their headphones to listen to their teacher/video/podcast during lesson and not disturb others.

As mentioned yesterday we need registration of students who will be at school for the next two and half weeks. Unfortunately we need this by midday today so we can set up supervised study, provide staffing rosters and set up attendance recording systems.

Regards Greg