



Principal's Update Friday 27 March

Dear Parent/Caregiver

Good afternoon. I am very pleased with how our first day went delivering education online. There were a couple of issues raised that I will talk about below. The number of students logging on was very good and we will follow up the few who did not.

**Welcome back:**

Today we welcomed back nearly all of the students and teachers who were asked to isolate by SA Health. Thank you for doing your duty to protect our community. I would also like to thank the families who supported our students during this time.

**Week 11 extra week of School Holidays:**

The Minister announce yesterday that all students will begin school holidays at the end of next week, one week earlier than usual. Teachers will remain at school for the four days (6 -9 April) which will be devoted to designing online programs for Term 2. We are not sure what the start of Term 2 will look like, but it is highly likely that we will continue with online learning.

**Parent Teacher Interviews originally planned for next Wednesday:**

Due to current COVI-19 restrictions we are unable to meet face to face but we are looking at an alternative way to meet and/or provide feedback. In light of the Minister's announcement for an early start to the school holidays, we will postpone our scheduled pupil free day next Wednesday, and continue with online learning. In Term 2, we will again look at an alternative way to provide feedback to parents on student progress.

**Marking Attendance:**

On a normal day we would mark the roll to show attendance at school or an absence. All of our student management systems are geared for this process. Now that we are trialling online learning, there is no product that we can simply buy and start using. Teachers are designing spreadsheets which are tracking students but this does not communicate with parents. We will continue to work on finding a solution with the Department as all schools will need an attendance management system in this new learning environment.

**Laptops & iPads:**

We have been contacted by some parents enquiring about buying laptops for Year 8 and Year 9 students. I am happy for parents to make this choice but I would remind families that we continue to support the iPad Program in Year 8 and 9 both now and when we return to our normal at school learning. The iPad Program was developed as the device is durable, holds a charge for longer and is price effective for parents. Year 10 to Year 12 will continue to have a choice of devices. The only devices not supported are Chromebooks.

Lastly, another reminder for parents/caregivers to join School stream: <https://uhs.sa.edu.au/school-stream/>

I hope everyone has a good weekend and is able to wind down a little following the last two very hectic weeks.

Regards Greg