

DUNGOG HIGH SCHOOL

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Principal: Janene McIntosh
Email: dungog-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au



23 March 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Due to the pandemic of COVID-19, I write to inform you that the current direction from the NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian is that, "for practical reasons NSW is encouraging parents to keep their children at home." The full NSW Government advice given today can be found at:

<https://preview.nsw.gov.au/news/new-covid-19-restrictions-begin-as-schools-move-towards-online-learning>

With these developments today, please find below our arrangements to date:

Attendance:

1. I ask that you keep your children at home, unless you have no other option than to send your child to school, as advised by the NSW Premier.
2. To inform us about your child's absence, please follow this advice;
 - a. If you are choosing to keep your child at home up until the end of Term 1 2020 (9 April 2020) please either:
 - i. Send a signed note, notifying us of your decision via mail to:
Dungog High School, P.O. Box 147, Dungog NSW 2420 OR
 - ii. Send an email, notifying of your decision using your current email address recorded by the school to: dungog-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
 - b. If you choose to keep your child at home after the Easter Holiday period, we ask that you update us regarding your child's attendance from 28 April and advise us of your decision moving into Term 2, using the same methods above.
 - c. If you are making the decision on a daily basis to keep your child at home, please respond to the SMS sent by the school after 10:30am or notify us through an email to the school on: dungog-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
3. Regarding the codes used for non-attendance records, the school will ensure the Department of Education's advice will be applied to all student attendance records, informed by your correspondence to us. In these circumstances, the leave codes are based on your decision and communication to us, giving us the information needed to apply the leave codes and guidelines given by the Department of Education.
4. Please limit landline telephone contact to the School Office at this time, using this for emergencies, wellbeing inquiries and urgent contact only, not student's daily attendance.

Assessment:

1. All Term 1 Assessment Years 7-12 will be postponed and rescheduled, effective immediately.

2. All Year 11-12 Formal Assessment will have a blanket Misadventure process applied by the Principal effective immediately, to ensure no student is disadvantaged from this disruption. Re-scheduling of postponed assessment will be formally notified to all students in the coming weeks, when more information is provided by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA). We are currently awaiting NESA's response to COVID-19 management and associated disruption. Their information can be accessed at:
<https://www.educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/home>

Learning From Home:

1. We will have detailed information about our Supporting Learning from Home resources, activities, communication methods and online options in the coming days, where every student and family will be provided with the Dungog High School document entitled, "Supporting Learning from Home."
2. We will have hard copy formats and online options for learning in these circumstances prepared for all students as soon as possible and you will be notified when this is live across all platforms of our communication. Our school website will be updated to direct you to these resources, via a new link on our homepage, coming soon at: <https://dungog-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/>
3. From Tuesday 24 March, **all work provided for those students at home will be same for those students at school, Years 7-12.** This is to ensure equity in educational provision and to prevent any disadvantage to those students self-isolating at home during this time. Therefore, no practical lessons will be occurring until the NSW Government lifts restrictions.
4. If you cannot access an internet service and must have hard copies for all work provided, please send us an SMS to 0448 384 521, with your student's full name and Year group to facilitate postage arrangements.
5. The Department of Education has recently commenced the development of the online information regarding learning from home, which I ask that you read and access for your child found at:
<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-from-home/advice-to-parents-and-carers>
6. In full preparation for Supporting Learning from Home, please ensure you have the following:
 - a. **Student and parent access to the Sentral Portal** found at: <https://dungog-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/supporting-our-students/parents--carers-and-the-community/portal.html>
 - b. **A current email address linked to our records for you at school.** This can be updated by sending us an email at: dungog-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
 - d. **Liked us on Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/DungogHighSchool/>
 - e. **Provided us with a response if you need the hardcopy posted option (as above)**

We understand these are very challenging and difficult times. Our number one priority is keeping our students, staff and community healthy, safe and well. The school extends its thoughts and prayers to everyone in these challenging times and we thank you greatly for your understanding and cooperation as we work through these significant changes in our mode of operation. We can assure you that we are doing the best we can and working hard to implement these changes.

Kind regards



Janene McIntosh
Principal