



Dungog High School

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Principal: Ms Janene McIntosh

9 April 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students of Dungog High School,

On behalf of our staff, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your ongoing support of the school, and in particular, the tremendous work you have done with our students whilst they have been learning from home. As we conclude our second full week of online and remote teaching and learning, we know we have lots of very tired students and teachers.

What a term it has been. We commenced the year with so much positivity and optimism for the future, amongst the significant challenges of drought, fires and now a global pandemic. While the year has been like nothing we could have ever imagined, I can honestly say that our school and community is rising to these major challenges and making the absolute best we can from the current circumstances we all find ourselves in together.

As we move forward into Term 2, I would like to **strongly encourage you to please continue to keep your children at home**, as you have been doing; prioritising the health, safety and wellbeing of our community and abiding by the social distancing restrictions that are given in our current government advice. At this stage, the school is expected to be 'operational' on a skeleton staff, for those essential workers who require their children present at school. In Term 2, staff will be continuing on a flexible roster working from home and school, providing teaching and learning from home for all students. Any student in attendance at school is accessing the same educational provisions as those students learning from home, in a 'one unit for all' model as described in the resources on our [Website](#) and Sentral Portal. Your on-going support of these social distancing measures is greatly appreciated, until notified differently by the government.

Looking Ahead at Term 2:

Sentral Portal Upgrade

We will be updating our Sentral online platform to a cloud-based server in order to better support our teachers and students. This will be occurring from **3pm on 9 April 2020**. You will not be able to access Sentral during this upgrade.

As a result of this upgrade, the web address to access Sentral will change to dungoghs.sentral.com.au/portal

Please make sure you change your linked address, especially if you have bookmarked the Portal Login page. The information flyer we have circulating Facebook and on our website provides more detailed information for you about the functionality of this new Sentral upgrade.

Sentral will remain our first point of contact for students and parents and will be our key location for all messages relating to the school, including teaching and learning instruction.

Learning from Home Timetable

Our Blended Online Learning Timetable for Term 2 has been constructed after feedback from both students, staff and parents. It has been designed to allow access to timetabled teachers in the morning on a compressed time (each period is 30 minutes), as well as a flexible learning session in the afternoon. **Students will follow their normal timetable, with period lengths shortened to 30 minutes (please see attached).**

Year 11-12

Year 11 and 12 continue to be our major priority in the current climate, with teachers delivering flexibly to senior students as best they can, facing the daily challenges of the Higher School Certificate (HSC) in this new remote mode of teaching and learning. Year 12 have received their [HSC Assessment Booklet COVID-19 Update](#) (1 April) and a second booklet will be forthcoming in Term 2 to update them on their remaining school-based assessment advice for 2020. Year 11 will be notified of their COVID-19 assessment update in Week 1 of Term 2. We do not have any comprehensive, detailed advice from NESA regarding VET and practical subjects, to date. I am currently working on a proposal for Term 2 that would offer Year 12 students limited access to the school and their teachers on a modified timetable that maintains social distancing protocols and Work Health Safety requirements, to support our HSC students into next term. I will update you on our capacity to do this early next term.

Technology Support

Our absolute preference is that all students will have their own laptop (or suitable device) and access to the internet to continue learning from home. Next term, we have a comprehensive device loans program rolling out to families, prioritising seniors and then rolling out across all families, should you require support. This also includes plans for providing a limited number of internet dongles to families needing internet access. If you require technology support, please refer to our 'Device Loaning Program' and soon to be live 'Technology Support Request' process on our [Website](#)

2020 School Fees

I have made the decision to waive school fees for 2020, to support all of the families of Dungog High School during this tumultuous time. This will mean that all fees paid for 2020 have been placed in credit for 2021 expenses, against your account for next year. Any family who is experiencing hardship now and would like any fees they paid for 2020 reimbursed, please email the school to request this dungog-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au. I sincerely hope that this gesture can alleviate some pressure for families experiencing financial hardship at this difficult time.

Wellbeing Website

To support wellbeing while learning from home and online, we have created a [Dungog High School Wellbeing Website](#). Please take the time to familiarise yourself with this support and use the notification links within this site. Alternatively, all modes of communication within the school are detailed in our [Dungog High School Learning from Home COVID-19](#) resource booklets and I encourage you to communicate actively with us for support, as needed.

Over the Easter holidays, while the same certainty may not exist around the activities we like doing, finding something different and joy in new activities will be important. Please focus on celebrating the wonderful things in our lives and in this community, looking after each other. Social isolation this Easter brings with it opportunities to engage and connect differently, finding ways to have new experiences that will help us to relax. Take care.



Janene McIntosh

Principal



Blended Online Learning Timetable

Students should follow their regular timetable structure, using the new times

Period	Time	My Timetable (Week A & B)
Period 1	9:00 – 9:30	Access your online classroom space and complete tasks as required.
Period 2	9:30 – 10:00	Access your online classroom space and complete tasks as required.
Break - 15 mins		
Period 3	10:15 – 10:45	Access your online classroom space and complete tasks as required.
Period 4	10:45 – 11:15	Access your online classroom space and complete tasks as required.
Break - 15 mins		
Period 5	11:30 – 12:00	Access your online classroom space and complete tasks as required.
Period 6	12:00 – 12:30	Access your online classroom space and complete tasks as required.
Break - 1 hour		
Afternoon session	1:30 – 3:20	<p>Students work flexibly through assigned work. Recommended activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check emails, class announcements, Sentral messages Read a novel Assignment work Catch up homework Complete evidence of work as required Extension activities Exercise / wellbeing Sending questions to teachers Track your learning to make sure you are up to date Typing lessons Senior Students – contact with teacher by appointment Learning and Support – contact by appointment

Notes:

- Class Teachers will be online during their timetabled lesson
- Most portable devices such as phones allow you to turn on multiple alarms to help with reminding you about timings
- In the second part of the day, prioritise and set goals that you work towards achieving.