



# Murray Bridge High School

Excellence ♦ Respect ♦ Working together



24 April 2020

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Yesterday I emailed you the latest advice from South Australia's Chief Public Health Officer, Professor Nicola Spurrier and the Education Department's CE Rick Persse, which indicated that school will return to 'normal' in South Australia next week. It is such a relief that we have been spared the worst of Covid-19 in our state and local community.

We are very excited to welcome back students of Murray Bridge High School for the start of term 2. **This means our normal school timetables will operate and teachers will be in classrooms teaching the students who are at school from Monday.** Teachers will continue to complete risk assessments on practical activities against social distancing guidelines, but I know that many of the choice subjects are looking forward to being able to utilise workshops and equipment with care while the risk to students is low.

At the beginning of this week, we sent a text asking you to respond with the option of school or home learning. Now that the advice has changed, we will follow our usual attendance procedures.

Some parents may still choose to keep their child at home longer term even though our school is open. In this case, can you please send us an email [dl.0785.attend@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0785.attend@schools.sa.edu.au), or SMS **0451 266 328**, and identify the name of your child/ren and the dates you intend to keep your child/ren learning at home. I would recommend no greater than 2 weeks at a time because as we have seen already, much can change in a very short time frame. If your child is not at school and we have not heard from you, you will receive a mid -morning text every day asking you to contact us. Likewise, if you have indicated your child will learn from home and then decide to send to school, we need an email or call a minimum of the day before, in order to change the settings in Daymap. As always, if your child is showing any symptoms of being unwell, please keep them at home, but let us know!

My teachers spent the end of last term preparing for an online classroom environment and have learning ready and available for all students to access in their Google classrooms. Initially we expected a vast majority of students to be at home and the teacher to be able to be available online to answer questions and clarify misunderstandings. Teachers will now be using blended learning practices for the first time to effectively teach face-to-face and be available for students online. In this initial stage, I have asked teachers to dedicate a lesson a week to students learning from home. In the next week, when we have a better idea of numbers, we will refine and develop our processes further. As our confidence grows in blended face-to-face and online learning, we will increase learning resources online to enable continuity of learning for all students in every subject, whether at school, away through illness or learning from home. Our students and families will benefit longer term from our ability to respond quickly and seamlessly to any further community health concerns as they present, and we ask that you are patient with us during this initial planning phase.

Finally, today we launch our new easy to navigate website, including the updated Handbook and latest Covid-19 information. In order to facilitate cashless ordering in our canteen, students are encouraged to pre-order food and drinks using the online QKR! App. Only a small selection of food will be available for sale in the canteen at break times as we transition to a much greater reliance on pre-ordering. Information can be found on our freshly updated website – <https://www.mbhs.sa.edu.au> .

I am very proud of the way staff have embraced these new challenges to create rigorous and targeted learning for our students. We want to ensure no child is left behind, and we need your continued support to make this happen. As always, your feedback is appreciated.

Regards, Ruth