



Thursday, 19 March 2020

Dear Park Ridge SHS parents and carers,

You would all be aware that our Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, has communicated yesterday - unnecessary gatherings of 100 or more will be banned. Our school has responded by discontinuing year level assemblies. This action is on top of the very extensive strategies put in place at the beginning of the week and outlined in our last letter to you.

As all State Schools currently remain open, we would anticipate that all children attend and be engaged in the usual program of instruction. Classes are progressing extremely well and children are happy and learning. Our school remains focused on teaching and learning with an increased focus on health and hygiene.

At this time we recognise that a small number of parents are choosing to keep their child/children at home. If you are choosing to keep your child away from school for an extended period of time can you please complete the attached **Form 1 - Application for exemption for a child/young person enrolled in a state school or a child/young person not enrolled at any Queensland school**; we thank you for your support in this process. We have received some requests from parents for schoolwork for students to complete at home. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, there is no requirement that teachers provide any additional schoolwork other than what would normally be provided during a typical school week (i.e. homework and any other work that is usually completed at home). We appreciate your desire to want to ensure that your student/s continue to learn, however, our teachers are still engaged in delivering in the classroom and we cannot make this an impossible task for them.

We are, however, proactively working on year level action plans to provide access to a baseline digital classroom for parents and students who choose not to attend school. This will become a teacher monitored platform if we receive a directive to close the school for any time period. More information will be provided to parents as soon as possible; however, at this stage teachers will not be providing personalised school work, outside routine expectations, to parents who choose to self-isolate their children whilst the school remains open.

QCAA have indicated that, at this stage, all Year 12 timelines will be met without alteration. Regardless of the pathway our Year 12 students have chosen, there is an urgency around them completing their senior courses of study successfully. Our school and the teachers of Year 12 classes will do everything possible to support and monitor the learning of all Year 12 students through this difficult time.

Extra scholarship laptops released

To support students with engaging in online learning, Park Ridge State High School is making an additional 80 scholarship loan laptops available to families in financial stress. These laptops are fully subsidised so there is no cost involved and are available to students who have not yet purchased or hired their own device (BYOD). In the unlikely event of a shutdown, these devices will allow students to continue to engage and learn from home, as long as internet access is available.

The devices must be returned at the end of the school year in good working order or costs for repair/replacement may apply.

Scholarship application forms are available for students to collect from the IT Help Desk, or at the office.

I appreciate your understanding and support.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Amos', written in a cursive style.

Sharon Amos

Principal

Park Ridge SHS