



BRISBANE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Newsletter

Week 10 Term 1

Friday 3 April 2020



BGS Learning at Home Photo Competition

In this issue

End of Term

Message from
Headmaster

Lead Article



Volleyball Premiers



CONNECTING • INFORMING • EMPOWERING

Building Resilience

Headmaster

Anthony Micallef

We have experienced an extraordinary past few weeks. At our first virtual Senior School Assembly this morning, I spoke to an empty Centenary Hall, and I must say I missed the usual cacophony of boys' voices that traditionally starts the assembly. I also introduced the virtual Middle School Assembly to connect with our youngest members of the community. I hope all boys listening and watching from home still felt a sense of inclusion and belonging.

During both assemblies, I encouraged boys to monitor their health closely. I explained that the purpose of this isolation is to keep as many Australians as safe and healthy as possible, and I urged them to take care of themselves and each other (from a safe distance, of course). No matter what happens this year, they should be proud of themselves, their resilience, and their ability to adapt to extreme circumstances. I am proud of the way BGS students are coping with this crisis.

I sincerely hope our BGS families are safe and well and that each student has adjusted to studying and learning online from home. We have all been heavily impacted by the measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. I am grateful for your support and understanding, and I thank everyone for their hard work and patience as we transitioned to remote schooling. The positivity shown across our community has been outstanding, and I appreciate how everyone has worked together to get the job done.

Before we look to what might happen after the Easter break, it is important to acknowledge the achievements of this term and the effort we have put into cocurricular sports and activities. The GPS season came to an early end for Volleyball, Cricket, Sailing and Debating, but I commend our students on the effort shown during training and competition. Despite missing the final rounds, the GPS Association has awarded premierships to reward and recognise the hours put in by students, coaches, officials, staff, teachers and parents.

Congratulations to our volleyballers, who share the GPS premiership with Gregory Terrace and Churchie. It is also important to acknowledge our Rowing First VIII, who after months of training, had an undefeated season and won the GPS Head of the River. Our swimmers also had a chance to contest the championship, and we congratulate them on their second place. The GPS Sailing Championship is postponed until later in the year, with a date to be confirmed.

GPS sports and activities are suspended for Terms 2 and 3. This decision will be reviewed on Friday 1 May.

The School is preparing for several scenarios next term. Our first preference is to celebrate the students' return to campus on Tuesday 21 April. If that cannot happen, boys and their teachers will transition to a more wide-ranging online teaching and learning environment. It will be challenging, but we will support students and inform parents.

The Studies Directorate has liaised with the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) to confirm the revised assessment requirements for Years 11 and 12. They have also formed a revised Term 2 timetable, should the delivery of online curriculum continue beyond the holiday period. A revised assessment calendar for all year levels is being developed, and we will advise students and parents in due course. Early in Term 2, we will conduct a parent survey to ascertain views about your son(s) online learning experience.

I assure you the School is doing everything it can to minimise the impact on the boys' studies and to keep them socially connected to the School by offering continuity of curriculum, access to teachers and modified assessment, among other measures. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your son's Head of Year. If your son needs assistance, he can contact his Form Tutor, Head of Year, Assistant Head of Year or one of the School Counsellors in Student Services. Boys are encouraged to make use of our confidential counselling and wellbeing services. The School is here to support our students.

We are all overwhelmed with information about COVID-19, and it is important to get accurate information. Social media has been full of memes, and in some cases, risky home remedies and misinformation. The Australian Government has launched an official 'Coronavirus Australia' app you can download for accurate advice. More information is available [here](#).

Throughout the term break, I will continue to take advice from government authorities and will update the community of any developments. Please continue to visit the [COVID-19 Advice for BGS Community](#) page on the BGS website for the latest updates from the School.

I hope you stay well and safe.

My very best wishes for the coming weeks. We continue to be here for the students today and in the days ahead.

Deputy Headmaster – Students

David Carroll

Connectedness

The transition to online learning has been an education for all of us – students, teachers and parents.

In addition to viewing humorous content online regarding the interactions between students and their teachers, I have been preparing my nine-year-old son for his online learning with his first electronic device. He was so excited about his new iPad that he could not wait for his classes to start the following Monday at 8.45am. The enthusiasm was palpable, and his focus lasted until 9.30am. According to my wife, it was a great 45 minutes.

Like all families, we are working hard to try to make sure our son's education remains enjoyable and meaningful. BGS is also trying to create an environment where boys feel supported and engaged in their learning. Learning, whether it be at home or school, is enhanced by a student's sense of belonging and connectedness to his school.

This week, we asked students to send in a photo to show how they were learning from home. We had some outstanding submissions, including the images below and on the cover.

This term's focus on connectedness has continued during the online learning transition. It has been wonderful to hear stories of the partnerships between staff and students and the supportive work from parents. This connectedness is essential to a quality education program, and we are committed to maintaining these authentic partnerships and a strong sense of community during the online learning period. Connectedness will once again be our focus in Term 2.

Although it may not be necessary if online learning is still operating, boys in boys in Years 9 to 12 are reminded the winter uniform will start on Tuesday 5 May.



Director of Student Services

Dale Nicholas

Student Services will be using alternative communication methods to ensure students are kept up to date with necessary tertiary information if the School remains closed for an extended period.

Student and Parent Appointments

CoViu – a healthcare video consultation platform – will be used to provide online counselling and careers services. CoViu has significant privacy and security features and is widely used across the healthcare industry.

Student Services will email a meeting request to students, parents or staff using a CoViu meeting code. As part of the process, recipients must agree to the platform's privacy and informed consent before the meeting.

Tertiary preparation appointments will continue in this format until further notice.

Student Services Social Media Communications

Student Services have a range of social media pages available to the BGS community. These pages have been active for many years, but will become more prevalent during the online learning period. Please like or follow the below pages to stay informed:

- [Beyond Grammar Facebook](#)
- [Beyond Grammar Instagram](#)
- [Beyond Grammar Twitter](#)

Comments and interactions are monitored, and users will be blocked if they attempt to misuse the groups.

Director of Boarding

Berian Williams-Jones

This term has been unprecedented in the challenges posed. Thank you to each boy and his family for your support and trust during this time. Our priority is to ensure the wellbeing of your sons, and this principle continues to guide our decisions.

This week, I have seen some wonderful LinkedIn posts about how schools managed similar challenges during the polio epidemic of 1945. In many ways, BGS has never been more equipped to manage today's challenges. With technology such as Microsoft Teams and OneNote, we are able to maintain the impetus of teaching and learning. Our boys have engaged well with this challenge, particularly during the Prep sessions in The Lilley Centre this week.

We are committed to maintaining the connection that we know is vital in the residential community. At a time of uncertainty, knowing that you are still part of the Harlin House family and that your mates are there for you has never been more important.

As most of our boarders are no longer on campus, we have created a virtual boarding experience — Harlin Horizons — to maintain the connection that is at the heart of the boarding experience. The boarding staff who live alongside your sons have incredibly important roles to play in maintaining these connections and supporting our boarders.

At the front line, the Boarding Tutors who lead our House Families will make weekly contact with each boy in their Tutor Group. Head of Residence Nick Byron and I, assisted by the Houseparent, will also contact each family.

The residential team will take over our social media pages to post themed photos, set challenges and reach out to families. I encourage you to view, like and share these updates via the [Harlin House Facebook](#) page and [Harlin House Instagram](#).

I particularly look forward to seeing the results of our 'round the world' video challenge, similar to the one made with students and staff on campus this week. The more connected we are during this time, the more supported your son will feel.



Director of Student Wellbeing Programs

Philippa Douglas

SchoolTV | Resilience

Resilience is a skill that all children need. It refers to their ability to cope and adapt in situations when confronted with challenges such as adversity, trauma, tragedy and stress. Resilience is essential to their mental health and wellbeing during their journey to adulthood and can be learned from an early age through the support of a positive adult role model.

Being resilient does not mean your child will not experience difficulties, but it will better equip him to manage difficult situations. Over-protective parenting can be viewed as being unhelpful towards building resilience. While it may be a natural instinct to over-protect our children, experiencing potential failure is part of their learning process. Encouraging children to take healthy risks will help them trust their capacity to deal with uncomfortable situations and increase their courage.

In this edition of SchoolTV, parents will gain an understanding of how to support their child's brave behaviour to help them adapt and build resilience.

Volleyball

2020 Season Review

The GPS season has officially ended for 2020, and the BGS Volleyball community has never been closer. Our collective contributions have created grand memories of an incredible season.

We proudly stood behind our teams as we looked to deliver our vision of being recognised as the leading volleyball school in the GPS Association. For the second year in a row, BGS finished on top of the overall ladder.

The BGS First VI respectfully acknowledge and proudly share the 2020 Volleyball Premiership with Churchie and Gregory Terrace – deserving champions who epitomise the GPS and School Values.

Our results across the board are reflective of an incredible effort from players, coaches and families. This year represents one of our best program performances of all time, finishing the season with an impressive win rate of 86%.

2020 Season Results			
Team	Placing	Team	Placing
7A	First	9C	Second
7B	First	10A	Second
7C	First	10B	First
7D	First	10C	Second
7E	Second	11A	Third
8A	First	11B	First
8B	First	11C	Third
8C	First	Third VI	Third
8D	First	Second VI	First
9A	First	First VI	First
9B	Eighth		

Overall Position		
Position	School	Points
First	BGS	174
Second	Churchie	168
Third	GT	112
Fourth	BBC	112
Fifth	NC	88
Sixth	TGS	60
Seventh	BSHS	42
Eighth	IG	30

Congratulations to all players, especially Year 12 students who now move to the next challenge.

On behalf of players and coaches, we are grateful for the opportunity to take the court this season and honoured to have represented all past, present and future BGS families.

For now, it is important we stay strong as a school community. We wish all BGS families a safe and healthy path forward in these challenging times. *We Don't Quit – We Rise.*

Rhys Cox
Director of Volleyball



P&F Auxiliary

Connect – Care – Contribute

The P&F Auxiliary is focused on ensuring it is able to provide a supportive and responsive service to BGS families.

The Grammar Shop and Tuckshop will be closed during the school break and will reopen when students return to classes on campus. We will ensure safety guidelines for social distancing and hygiene are maintained. Until further notice, both shops will remain cash-free due to the risks of cash handling.

For the Tuckshop, My Student Account (MSA) cards can be topped-up online via My Grammar > My Student > Tuckshop Account. A low balance notification or automatic top-up can also be set via the Manage > Edit function.

For the Grammar Shop, card payments can continue in-store or over the phone. Please call the Grammar Shop on 07 3834 5347 to arrange for a credit to be placed on a student's account.

We wish the BGS community a safe and healthy break and look forward to seeing you back at school.

Joanne Villiers
P&F Auxiliary

2020 Calendar

Term 1

Wednesday 29 January – Friday 3 April

Term 2

Tuesday 21 April – Friday 19 June

Term 3

Tuesday 14 July – Friday 18 September

Term 4

Tuesday 6 October – Friday 27 November

BGS150

Light Dark Blue: 150 Years of Learning and Leadership at Brisbane Grammar School is available for purchase. The beautiful 500-page hardcover book updates the BGS story with previously untold anecdotes, rare photographs and illustrations. With a limited print run, it is sure to become a sought after collector's item. Standard edition and limited editions are available.

[Click here](#) to order *Light Dark Blue*.

[Click here](#) to view all BGS150 merchandise – limited stocks remain.

BGS150 History Book Purchase now



Did you know?

You too can be a champion!

Find out how to lead your Year Group Bursary (YGB).

Our
2020
Vision



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