



BRISBANE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

# Newsletter

**Week 9 Term 1**

Friday 27 March 2020



A Quiet Campus - BGS Transitions to Online Learning

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# COVID-19 Update from Headmaster

Anthony Micallef

Dear BGS Community

I hope this message finds you in good health and spirits, despite the changes and uncertainty brought on by the COVID-19 crisis. My heart goes out to all of you who have been directly or indirectly impacted.

I am incredibly grateful for the support and encouragement that we have received from our community. I would especially like to acknowledge the commitment of our teachers who have collaborated to create remote learning experiences for our students. I am also very appreciative of our business services staff for maintaining order and redoubling hygiene measures.

While BGS remains open, we are all adjusting to this new reality. Delivering curriculum to over 1750 boys in an online environment is a challenging task, but I have been very pleased with the transition to online learning this week in record time. I am positive we can continue to improve the quality of service to the boys.

Yesterday, the Queensland Premier and Minister for Education announced arrangements for state schools for next week. In summary, these are:

- State schools will move to five student free days next week.
- Staff will be required to attend professional development focusing on online learning.
- Vulnerable staff will be able to work from home.
- Schools will be open for children of essential workers and vulnerable students – providing supervision only for these students.
- Staff will be advised they will return to work on the first day of Term 2 unless there is government advice not to do so.
- Decisions on state schools' operations from the start of Term 2 will be made during the school holidays.

The Minister yesterday specified an expectation that non-government schools consider their operations for next week in light of the decisions in relation to state schools. The Minister also endorsed the move to an online learning model.

This announcement confirms Brisbane Grammar School's decision to move to online learning this week. Next week, the boys have two more days of guided online learning on Monday and Tuesday. From Wednesday 1 April to Friday 3 April, students will work independently while teachers are refining their online delivery and developing curriculum for Term 2.

The QCAA announced yesterday that the requirements for assessment for Year 12 will be adjusted in response to the impact of COVID-19 on school communities. BGS is awaiting more specific advice from the QCAA as to which Internal Assessments (IAs) students will not be required to complete; this is likely to vary across different subjects and their course requirements.

The Deputy Headmaster – Teaching and Learning Steve Uscinski and Dean of Studies Mark Schumann will publish a revised assessment schedule once the QCAA requirements and recommendations are clear. The [QCAA communication is available here](#). I certainly endorse the decision as one likely to reduce the stress on our senior students.

At this unnerving time, it is wonderful to be able to reflect on the community that surrounds Brisbane Grammar School – past and present parents, students, volunteers and Old Boys – as we continue to support and educate the young men of the future.

We are a community marked by inclusiveness and generosity, and we should take a moment to take heart from that.

# Deputy Headmaster – Students

David Carroll

## Online Learning Routines

I hope you have appreciated the School's communications over the past weeks. I understand there have been many, but it is important that you are aware of our thinking during this ever-changing time. As BGS transitions to an online learning environment, we will continue to communicate with parents and students actively.

If your son is in Senior School and you wish to seek guidance on his progress, or you have a school related question, please contact his Head of Year. They are ready to help in any way possible, whether that be sourcing the information you seek or connecting you with an appropriate staff member. Our partnership with parents is crucial at all times, but even more so with the current environment.

It has also never been more pertinent to establish healthy routines for your son during this transition. I encourage you to read the [BGS Curriculum Delivery in an Online Environment: Guidelines for Parents](#) sent earlier this week. The document outlines how you can support your son's learning at home and work with him to create a suitable routine. Your son's Head of Year is available to answer any questions you have about establishing healthy routines at home.

Rolls will be marked each morning during Tutor Groups (8.15am to 8.30am). As usual, please email [absences@brisbanegrammar.com](mailto:absences@brisbanegrammar.com) if your son is unable to engage in the learning schedule on any day.

# Director of Student Services

Dale Nicholas

## Year 12 Tertiary Interviews

All Year 12 students will have an interview with a counsellor before tertiary applications are due at the end of September. It is important for boys to develop independence in planning; therefore, interviews will be held with students only. Interview appointments have already been sent to some students and more will be sent throughout the year. Please do not be concerned if your son has not had an interview yet.

If the School is closed, we will continue to conduct interviews via phone calls and provide resources online. As the tertiary evening has been cancelled, Student Services have developed a video resource that covers information about QTAC applications. The video is narrated by Dr Nathan Simmons and is available [here](#).

# Director of Boarding

Berian Williams-Jones

Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, is often quoted as saying “when one door closes, another opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us.”

As I watched the boarding community slowly disperse over the course of this week, I felt sombre about the circumstances the term was ending in. The final school year for many of our wonderful young men is being impacted by some remarkable circumstances.

Although, as Bell says, this presents an opportunity to look forward with positivity. These circumstances will allow us to be creative and inventive in the ways we bind our boarding community together, even if we are spread across the nation and overseas.

Microsoft Teams – an application used by staff and students to communicate and learn – has had a boarders’ channel for a long time. This week, we asked boys to provide their shirt sizes for the 2020 Boarding polo via Teams. Since then, we have seen boys use the platform to come together and contributed in ways we have not seen before. Some boys are calling our request for shirt sizes via the application a sneaky move – but it worked!

I can see many wonderful opportunities to engage in a way that will develop and strengthen our relationships. If you see any opportunities, I encourage you to contact me. We will soon be linking the community online, and I look forward to the next door opening for the boarders.

# Director of Student Wellbeing Programs

Philippa Douglas

## Responding Positively to Challenges

An event like the COVID-19 pandemic can affect young people in different ways. They might feel overwhelmed by the information, conversations and increased levels of stress in their community. Identifying what they can and can't control is a starting point that helps them manage their emotions.

On Monday, our Student Wellbeing lesson focused on re-framing challenges, using COVID 19 as the stimulus. Boys acknowledged their feelings by discussing common reactions and what they can do to look after themselves and manage feelings of stress, anxiety, or distress associated with COVID-19. They also identified helpful resources and support. Throughout their discussions, boys had to consider the potential good things that could result from this situation and the importance of showing gratitude and kindness.

## Routines to Recharge

Through the Daily Bulletin, boys are reminded of the steps they can take to safeguard their physical, social and emotional wellbeing while learning from home. This week, the focus was on maintaining good routines.

Routines are one of the most important tools we can teach our boys to help them achieve success in life. Stable routines for children are associated with academic achievement, positive self-esteem, optimism, appropriate social skills, reduced behaviour problems and school readiness. Daily actions are products of our unconscious habits, reinforcing the need for developing healthy routines at a young age.

Although boys' physical learning environment will be different, some routines should remain the same.

The following strategies have been shared with the boys:

- Maintain a consistent time for waking and going to bed.
- Eat breakfast at the same time you would on a normal school day.
- Have a shower and change out of your pyjamas.
- Make your bed. This habit is shown to start a chain of good decisions throughout the day.
- Arrive at your online lessons on time with a positive, ready to learn attitude.
- Eat at regular times and avoid the temptation to graze.
- Use break times to connect with others.
- Move your body as you transition between online classes.
- Schedule down time and 'switch off'.
- Engage in activities that make you happy.
- Practise kindness each day.

# Acting Head of Middle School

Rebecca Campbell

Last Friday, we acknowledged the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence. Our Year 8 Public Purpose Committee organised for boys in each class to write their own anti-bullying messages to be displayed on pinboards for all to see.

Over the past few weeks, we have conducted our mid-term student wellbeing audits to determine how well the boys are progressing socially within their class and year group. Termly audits are conducted in the Middle School as preadolescents are still learning to regulate their behaviour and are striving to find their place in the social order. The data collected allows Heads of Year and Form Tutors to track and monitor behaviour and to take proactive measures to manage social interactions.

As we transition to an online delivery of curriculum, we must be mindful of monitoring online interactions between boys. Regularly checking devices and reporting any negative interactions to Heads of Year is strongly encouraged. I remind boys to carefully review the [Expectations for Students](#) as we move to an online environment.

BGS Supervision for students in Years 5 and 6 will continue to operate next week. Similarly, students in Years 7 and 8 who are on campus will have access to the library before and after school.

Many of our students have now transitioned to online learning from home. I wish all families well as we navigate our way through the coming weeks. I very much look forward to welcoming the boys back to school when we return.

# Music

As we transition to online learning, we have made every effort to ensure boys continue to gain the wellbeing benefits associated with music. The School has presented many online alternatives for the Music program, but I also encourage boys to experience the beauty and joy of music through the following at home activities:

- Get your instrument out and play it often.
- Sing your favourite songs.
- Listen to a piece of music that is special to you.
- Find a song that matches how you are feeling and share it with friends online.
- Stream an online concert.
- Write a song.
- Teach yourself new instruments via YouTube tutorials.

Whatever it is you do, keep music special and feel better because of it. I believe in the power of music to help us in these extraordinary times.

## Ensemble Program

One of the joys of BGS Music is that it allows people to come together to make beautiful music. We are exploring ways to ensure this joy is not lost and to keep boys engaged and connected in an online environment.

All ensemble directors will be communicating with boys and suggesting activities for them to complete. If online learning is extended, we will consider forming a virtual ensemble by collating recordings of boys performing musical pieces. This is an exciting concept that I look forward to exploring.

We ask boys to keep performing and complete at least one activity at home for each rehearsal they would normally attend, as directed by their teacher. This will ensure continued connection to the Music program and improve boys' wellbeing.

## Events

With all planned Music events cancelled, I want to assure the BGS Music community that we will host an event as soon as we can, and I encourage boys to keep practising. These events could be virtual, pre-recorded or live depending on the situation. I am not sure when we will hold our next event, but we will be performing together once again to showcase the wonderful talents of our boys. Updates will be provided as they become available.

## Music Tuition

We are committed to continuing group and private lessons online, with lessons commencing next week (Week 10). Full details will be shared with families involved.

While these lessons will look and feel different to normal, our staff will receive training to ensure lessons work well. We will continually monitor and review lessons to ensure that students are receiving the best tuition under the circumstances. Rest assured, lessons will continue; much to their delight, boys need to keep practising.

I want to thank the BGS Music community for their many messages of support. I want to particularly pay tribute to the extraordinary Music staff who have been flexible, hard-working and committed. I know they will do all they can to support and encourage our musicians.

I wish you all the very best and will continue to keep you up-to-date with what is happening in Music at BGS.

**Peter Ingram**  
**Head of Music**

# Director of P.E., Sport & Activities

John Clancy

## Individual Preparation of Student Athletes

It is important that boys do not become sedentary during the current cocurricular training restrictions, as this can impact their physical and mental wellbeing. We continue to actively develop resources to guide individual preparation for Term 2 sports, Term 3 pre-season and general fitness. These resources ensure that boys remain connected to BGS Co-Curriculum program while providing physical and technical training programs.

Resources are available via MyGrammar > Sports / GPS > Co-Curriculum Training > Co-Curriculum Training Program. From here, you can access links to sport-specific and Performance Development training programs. After finishing a training session, students are asked to complete the training program record survey, accessible via the same page on MyGrammar. This survey allows our staff and coaches to monitor progress.

We will continue to update information and programs regularly.



# Cricket

## Year 5 and 6 Awards

Due to government regulations, we were unable to hold our end of season cricket presentation functions this year. Instead, we acknowledged the performances of our Years 5 and 6 cricketers during presentations in the Centenary Hall Gallery. Congratulations to the below award recipients.

Years 5 and 6 Award Recipients		
Team	Players' Player Award	Coach's Award
5A	Tom Rollason	Mitchell Spence
5B	Angus Cooper	Bryce Evans
5C	George Hooper	Edward Mulholland
5D	Cooper Euston	Joshua Holmes
5D Sky	Oliver Smith	Thomas Pearce
6A	Ned Horton	Ben Rothwell
6B	Henry Kerrigan	Harvey Munday
6C	Shubh Garg	Max Butler
6D	Eamann Conomos	Armaan Timblo
Special Award Recipient		
Max Butler (6C) for his hatrick against BBC on 22 February.		

## Junior Cricketer of the Year

At the end of each season, we award a Junior Cricketer of the Year Award to a player who exhibits excellent sportsmanship and application to his game, as well as achieving high levels of success in the different facets (batting, bowling and fielding). This award is sponsored by Keith Dudgeon Sports and the recipient receives a new cricket bat.

It is my pleasure to announce that the 2020 Junior Cricketer of the Year was Jonathan Tennakoon (5A).



Year 5 Players' Player Award Recipients



Year 5 Coach's Award Recipients and the Year 5 Cricketer of the Year



Year 6 Players' Player Award Recipients



Year 6 Coach's Award recipients and the Year 6 Cricketer of the Year

## Year 7 and 8 Awards

As we were unable to conduct formal presentations for boys in Years 7 to 12, I would like to congratulate the following boys who received awards:

Years 7 and 8 Award Recipients		
Team	Players' Player Award	Coach's Award
7A	Hugo Spencer	Harrison Reck
7B	Michael Dore	Angus McNamara
7C	James Yantsch	George Swan
7D	Jace Ramalingam	Colby Smith
7D Sky	Matthew Elliott	Sam Ong
7D Navy	Ryan Quinell	Thomas Gordon
8A	Xavier O'Sullivan	Drew Chudleigh
8B	Alexander Peters	Henry Mercer
8C	Henry Hyde	Zed Lee
8D	William Zillmann	Tom Chan
8D Sky	Thomas Siemon	Jordan Donald
9A	-	Brad Mackintosh
9B	-	Duncan Feltham
9C	-	Stephen Kyprios
9D	-	Perry Irwin
10A	-	Ryan Logan
10B	-	Gabe Hogarth Howes
10C	-	Elliott Dudgeon
11A	-	Hugo Malone
11B	-	Arjun Dhanani
11C	-	Raphy Athanasiou
First XI	-	Griff Adams
Second XI	-	Will Chapman
Third XI	-	Tom Appleyard
Fourth XI	-	Peter Muratidis
Special Award Recipient		
Oliver Hudson for his five-wicket haul against GT on 14 February. He finished with 5/12 (3 overs).		
Highest Partnership Award		
The 11As' Hugh Couper (67 not out) and Hugo Malone (63 not out) for their combined 119 runs against GT on 14 February.		

## Senior Cricketer Of The Year

This award is sponsored by Keith Dudgeon Sports and the recipient receives a new cricket bat. It is my pleasure to announce that the 2020 Senior Cricketer of the Year was Hugo Spencer (7A).

## Thank You

In last week's newsletter, I thanked everyone involved in making the 2020 Cricket season such a success. In what turned out to be a short and often interrupted season, I would like to congratulate our boys and thank all parents for their patience throughout the season. I hope next year's season is much smoother and we get to play as much cricket as possible.

I encourage all cricketers to engage in club cricket during the off-season, regulations permitting, and give themselves every chance to be well prepared for next year.

# Volunteer Roster

## Week commencing Monday 30 March 2020

Tuckshop (07) 3834 5229 | Grammar Shop (07) 3834 5347  
Roster Secretary Wendy Smith — email: [wsmith@visis.com.au](mailto:wsmith@visis.com.au)

### Grammar Shop hours

Weekdays 7.30am – 11.00am

### Tuckshop hours

Weekdays 7.00am – 2.00pm

The Tuckshop remains open next week. However, the reduced number of students makes it difficult to determine demand and volunteer requirements until early next week. Wendy Smith will keep all Team Captains informed daily of volunteer needs as only one or two volunteers may be needed each day.

If you know you will not be available, please contact Wendy in advance using the above contact details.

The P&F Auxiliary appreciates parents' understanding, patience and ongoing support.

Week Nine	Tuckshop Breakfast 7.00am – 8.00am	Tuckshop Morning Tea 8.00am – 2.00pm	Grammar Shop 7.30am – 11.00am
<b>Monday</b> 30 March	Jenny Humphris Cecilia Chan Cynthia Wong	Bronwyn Stillwell (Team Captain)	Tomomi Tamowaki
<b>Tuesday</b> 31 March	Florence Tiong	Gemma Ruddell (Team Captain)	Rachel Moss
<b>Wednesday</b> 1 April	Helen Webster Kate Crilly	Sandra Tam (Team Captain)	Cathy Carew
<b>Thursday</b> 2 April	Wei Shi Palingu Aponso	<b>Captain needed</b>	Alison Kay
<b>Friday</b> 3 April	<b>Volunteer needed</b>	Jo Wong (Team Captain)	Jodie Curtis

## 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

## Upcoming Events

### BGS Winter Ball

Saturday 22 August

# 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 Tuckshop and the Grammar Shop remain open until the end of term.** However, there are changes to both shops due to COVID-19 regulations. These changes are detailed below.

### Tuckshop

The Tuckshop will remain open next week while students are at school. Safety guidelines regarding social distancing and hygiene will continue.

### Grammar Shop

The Grammar Shop will remain open to students on campus until the end of term. If you or your son/s are unwell, please do not come to the Grammar Shop. Instead, you can call staff on 07 3834 5347 to discuss your needs. We will happily take your order and payment by phone. We can also arrange for collection or delivery on a case-by-case basis.

### Winter Uniforms

Senior winter uniforms are to be worn effective Tuesday 5 May 2020 so all senior students (Years 9 – 12) will need a blazer and white shirts by this time.

To maintain social distancing parameters of 1.5m, it is not appropriate for our staff to fit uniforms. If you would like to fit your son yourself, please call Grammar Shop staff to make an appointment. This might only be necessary for Year 9 students or senior students who are new to the School and do not have a school blazer or white school shirts.

### Embroidery

For embroidery on blazer pockets, the yellow Awards form can be collected from the Co-Curriculum Office and provided to the Grammar Shop with the blazer. Blazers can still be submitted for embroidery now that the 20 March deadline has passed. Although every effort will be made, there can be no guarantee these blazers will be ready by 5 May. Students with spare blazers can continue to bring embroidery requests to the Grammar Shop and they will be completed as soon as possible.

To check when your blazer or other items are ready for collection, please visit [MyGrammar > P&F Auxiliary > Uniforms > Embroidered item pick up list](#). Payment can be made at the Grammar Shop.

### Cash Handling

Due to the risks associated with cash handling, the Tuckshop and Grammar Shop are now cash-free.

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.

**Joanne Villiers**  
**P&F Auxiliary**



# 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?*

**All boys benefit from the diversity  
bursaries bring to BGS.**



BRISBANE GRAMMAR SCHOOL PRESENTS  
THE SENIOR DRAMATIC PRODUCTION

# THE 39 STEPS

ADAPTED BY PATRICK BARLOW FROM THE NOVEL BY JOHN BUCHAN

20, 21 & 22 MAY 2020  
7.00PM BGS THEATRE



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