



BRISBANE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

## **UPDATE FROM ACTING HEADMASTER**

### **Wednesday 17 June 2020**

Dear BGS Community

My aim in this communication is to provide parents with clarity on a range of important matters ahead of Term 3. As the Queensland Government provides further COVID-19 updates, the School will continue to keep its community informed. The education of your sons, delivered in a safe environment, remains our priority.

I would like to remind you that Headmaster Anthony Micallef will return from medical leave to resume his role leading the School on Monday 22 June. He has made a full recovery from the pulmonary embolism that threatened his health and is looking forward to once again leading the community.

### **Health and Wellbeing**

I would like to acknowledge the wonderful effort of parents in keeping their sons away from school this term when unwell. It is evidence of the priority placed on the safety of the community. Term 3 coincides with the cold and flu season. Parents must continue to keep their son home from school if he is unwell, even with mild symptoms. Symptoms that may suggest a contagious illness include fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, nausea or diarrhoea. Parents will be required to collect their son from school if he presents with these symptoms.

### **Boarding**

Amid the challenges brought about by COVID-19, BGS Boarding has made a significant advancement in the opening of Griffith House, a new facility for Middle School boarders. While Griffith House is already full and has a waiting list, Queensland Health directives mean we are only able to use half the beds, as is the case in Harlin House.

We intend to be able to offer accommodation to all our boarders from the start of Term 3. If there is no change to the Government directives, we have a plan in place to secure a temporary boarding facility. We will communicate these details, if required, directly to parents in due course.

### **Academic**

Student reports will be available from Friday 26 June. Parents will be notified via email when reports go live on MyGrammar.

Year 10 subject selection will be conducted online in Term 3. From Monday 3 August, a range of resources that include coverage of QCAA assessment requirements, QTAC tertiary entrance pre-requisites and descriptions of all senior subjects, will be available for students and parents.

Regular parent-teacher interviews will not proceed as published in the calendar at the start of 2020. The School is examining alternative ways of providing feedback opportunities to parents.

Virtual Assemblies will continue for the foreseeable future during Term 3.

## Parent Survey

During the home-based learning period, parents provided valuable data via surveys to inform our decision-making processes through what were unprecedented challenges. As this term ends, I once again invite you to provide feedback on your son's transition back to the on-campus setting, and your reflections on your son's school experience over this entire period. The survey is short and should take a few minutes to complete. It can be accessed [via this link](#) and will be available until midnight on Sunday 21 June.

## GPS Sport and Activities

Planning for Term 3 GPS competitions continues to progress in accordance with the GPS Return to Play plan and the Queensland Government Roadmap for easing COVID-19 restrictions. We anticipate changes as the Government restrictions move from Stage 2 to 3, over the upcoming term break. Program leaders will keep students and parents informed of any changes in planning, should it be necessary. The latest information for each program will be updated to the Cocurriculum pages on MyGrammar.

GPS Basketball, Football, Tennis and Chess fixtures will commence in Week 1 of Term 3. In GPS Rugby, the first four weeks of the term have been allocated to preparation, trials and grading games. The first GPS Rugby fixture will be held on Saturday 8 August (Week 4). The First XV (only) will play on Friday 18 September (Week 10). The GPS Cross Country Championships will be split into Junior (10 - 12 years) and Senior (13 years - Open) events, held over Weeks 4 and 5, with dates to be confirmed. The GPS Gymnastics Championships will take place in Week 8.

Arrangements for our return to GPS sport and activities will challenge us in many ways. The spectator experience will be very different, as we maintain our focus primarily on the boys competing. It would be premature to state these differences with certainty at this stage; however, we anticipate spectator limits at each venue, limited spectator amenities, set windows for entry and exit according to game times, and a GPS Association-wide application of the principles of Arrive, Play, Go.

## Outdoor Education

The Outdoor Education department is prepared for a return to programs to start Term 3. A set of program options are in place accounting for the level of restrictions at the time. The options include Outdoor Education activity days based at BGS or Northgate Playing Fields, day trips to Moogerah or Moogerah residential programs. The revised calendar allows each class to participate in an Outdoor Education program this year. The experiences have been shortened to ensure every student can participate.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Adventurous Journeys conducted by Outdoor Education teachers have also been rescheduled in the calendar. There is an expedition planned for the September and December term breaks. The Semester 2 Outdoor Education calendar is available on MyGrammar. A short video explaining the calendar, program and activity outlines is available [here](#).

## Traffic and Congestion

During the COVID-19 pandemic, it is not surprising that we have observed a substantial reduction in the number of students using public transport to travel to and from school. This is obviously contributing to an increase in traffic congestion during drop-off and pick-up. Parents are requested to remain patient during this challenging period and to respect the directions of our traffic control staff whose priority is the safety of our students.

The Park Hotel is located diagonally opposite BGS on the corner of Gregory and Wickham Terraces. The operators of the hotel have reported an increase in the incidence of parents using its property for drop-off and pick-up, which is impacting the hotel's operations. Parents are kindly requested not to use The Park Hotel for drop-off or pick-up.

## Cross River Rail Impact on BGS

The Queensland Government's Cross River Rail Project includes 5.9km of twin tunnels under the Brisbane River and Brisbane CBD. The northern tunnel will run beneath the north-west boundary of Brisbane Grammar School and will emerge directly behind Brisbane Girls Grammar School adjacent to the Inner City Bypass. The cycle and pedestrian path that runs along the rear boundaries of both schools will be closed from 22 June 2020 to early 2021. Cycle traffic will be diverted to College Road and Gregory Terrace.

Both schools have formally communicated to the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority their concerns of the cycle traffic detour decision, including risks of injury and additional congestion. Both schools have also expressed similar concerns to our local Council member. Parents are requested to be aware of increased cycle traffic during drop-off and pick-up.

### Term 3 Events

'In-person' events are subject to Government guidelines for venue capacity. COVID-19 restrictions have forced changes to some important Term 3 events. Some events have unfortunately had to be cancelled, others will be postponed until a later date, while others will continue but under a revised format. The following table outlines these changes.

Event	Status	Contact	Details
Parent-Teacher Evenings	Revised Format	Years 9 to 11: <a href="#">Dean of Administration</a> Years 5 to 8: <a href="#">Head of Middle School Administration and Events</a>	Parent-teacher interviews will be rescheduled for later in Term 3. Further details provided at the beginning of next term.
<a href="#">BGS Art Show</a>	Virtual	<a href="#">BGS Art Support Group</a>	Friday 24 July Online exhibition of 2D works.
<a href="#">BGS Open Day</a>	Virtual	<a href="#">BGS Communications</a>	Saturday 25 July Live Q&A sessions with key BGS staff.
Year 11 Semi-Formal	Postponed	<a href="#">Deputy Headmaster – Students</a>	17 October Format will be determined following Government guidelines.
Year 12 Formal	Possible Revised Format	<a href="#">Deputy Headmaster – Students</a>	18 September Format will be determined following Government guidelines.
Year 8 Quest	Revised Format	<a href="#">Head of Middle School Administration and Events</a>	The Quest will run as an internal activity only.
Concerts	Revised Format	<a href="#">Head of Music</a>	Format for Term 3 concerts will be communicated by the Music Department.
Drama Productions	Revised Format	<a href="#">Head of Drama and Dramatic Productions</a>	Limited audience numbers and recorded performances.
Grandparents' Day	Revised Format	<a href="#">Head of Middle School Administration and Events</a>	Format will be communicated at the beginning of Term 3. Likely to be an online event.

Father's Day Breakfast	Postponed	<a href="#">Head of Middle School Administration and Events</a>	Likely to be held at a date to be determined in Term 4 following Government guidelines.
Year 6 Canberra trip	Cancelled	<a href="#">Head of Middle School Administration and Events</a>	Cancelled due to health concerns.
Year 10 Subject Selection Evening	Online	<a href="#">Dean of Administration</a>	Online information and department-specific presentations.
Student Wellbeing Series: Tess Opie	Revised Format	<a href="#">Director of Student Wellbeing Programs</a>	Sexuality and relationships education information session for students as scheduled. Information session for parents cancelled. Possible webinar being investigated.
Student Wellbeing Series: Internet Safe Education	Online	<a href="#">Director of Student Wellbeing Programs</a>	Webinar for Year 8 students. Information session for parents cancelled. Possible webinar being investigated.
Support Group Meetings	Online	Various	Online meetings will continue in Term 3 until further notice.

I acknowledge the length of this communication; however, it is important to provide early information about the many activities scheduled for Term 3. More detailed information will be provided about specific events closer to them occurring.

I reiterate my thanks for your ongoing support of the School during Term 2. I look forward to students returning to school for the start of Term 3 on Tuesday 14 July.

**David Carroll**  
**Acting Headmaster | Deputy Headmaster – Students**