



Latest Schools Update – 26 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

The Queensland Government has today announced that an additional five (5) Student Free Days will be in place next week, from Monday 30 March to Friday 3 April, inclusive.

This means that while schools will remain open, the Term 1 break will start early for students and they will not attend school next week, unless they are children of essential workers.

Essential workers are those that must currently continue to attend their workplace during this difficult time. This includes early childhood and school staff. Schools are asked to provide supervision for children of these workers if they attend your school next week.

The Student Free Days have been provided to allow opportunities to plan for continuity of student learning in the event that the education sector needs to move to flexible and remote learning at the commencement of Term 2.

State schools will be formally closed for the Term 1 break from the end of Friday, 3 April. Staff will return to work on Monday 20 April, unless health advice determines otherwise.

We are well advanced in our contingency preparations to respond to the evolving nature of COVID-19 and you would be aware that the department has developed a comprehensive suite of paper-based and electronic teaching and learning resources to support school communities.

Our staff have already begun to develop their own learning contingency plan, based on our existing curriculum planning and our unique knowledge of our learners, our communities and our context.

This has included ensuring your materials are aligned to the curriculum and taking into account your students' capacity and capability to undertake schoolwork from home (i.e. where internet access is limited or restricted).

Finally, I would like to assure you that our decisions are being made in response to the latest and best information at hand. Sometimes the direction changes, and this can be challenging for all of us. Be assured though that our decision-making is based on best practice and expert advice.

I will continue to update you as the COVID-19 evolves, and I thank you for your patience, understanding and support during these unprecedented and challenging times.

Success through effort



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The work of all staff in Queensland state schools and centres has been characterised by strong commitment, professionalism and exceptional support for your students, colleagues and school community over these difficult months since the start of 2020.

Regards
Tony Cook
Director-General
Department of Education

Success through effort

Great state. Great opportunity.

