

# Bordertown High School

# Newsletter



Issue 4

31 March, 2020



## Principal's Report

Thank you to everyone in our community for the support shown during the disruption to the school brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. We continue to be committed to providing the best education we can to our students, many of whom are following the Government's advice to isolate at home if it is at all possible.

The current advice from Australia's Chief Medical Officer and Prime Minister is that schools will remain open. Individual sites will only be temporarily closed if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19. Protocols in line with SA Health will then follow.

Our dedicated staff have taken on the responsibility to keep as many students connected to education, either through learning at school or learning from home. Current self-isolating students are connecting with their teachers to check in on assignment and class work. Please ensure that checking in occurs during usual school hours and response time is dependent on the teacher's usual classroom obligations. Teachers will not immediately respond to contact made after hours.

There will be four pupil free days before Easter (6th, 7th, 8th and 9th April) for all schools and preschools. As parents and carers are supported in their choice to keep their children home, attendance rates for us are likely to continue to decrease. This is making it very challenging for our teachers to run regular classes while supporting students learning from home.

These pupil free days will create some space to help teachers plan and prepare for new models of learning that can be delivered consistently to students both at home and at school. This could include things like recorded lessons, demonstrations, modelling of tasks and messaging as a class in real time using the "thread". Students who will be learning from home due to isolation in Term 2, will be expected to meet their obligations regarding subject work. School continues, it's just that it will be from home. During Term 2, all students, regardless of whether they are at school or home, will engage with the same program. Practical subjects will have a reduction in activities and a larger focus on content. Students at school will not attend lessons in the same way and teachers will interact differently with students. More information will be distributed before Easter.

Teachers will not be preparing any learning for students to complete on the pupil free days, even if the students are learning from home. Students and families might like to take this opportunity to familiarise themselves with [Our Learning SA](#) which is the Department's new learning portal.

We know the COVID-19 coronavirus is causing a great deal of uncertainty for SACE students. Will students complete their SACE in 2020? Will the ATAR still go ahead? What about exams? Do Special Provisions apply with COVID-19? What about university entry?

These questions and others collected from students in South Australia and the Northern Territory were posed to SACE Board Chief Executive Professor Martin Westwell, and SATAC Chief Executive Officer Stuart Mossman. Watch the [You Can Ask That video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LeljzuMvBCg&feature=youtu.be) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LeljzuMvBCg&feature=youtu.be>) to find answers to students' concerns about the impact of COVID-19 on SACE and SATAC processes.

Please continue to take care as we hope that careful self-isolation as a tool works to reduce the impact of COVID-19. Easter and the school holidays will be very different this year.

Markus Trnovsky

## In this issue

- Principal's report
- Student news

## Important Dates

### April

- 6th—9th STUDENT FREE DAYS
- 9th LAST DAY OF TERM

TERM 2 BEGINS  
MONDAY 27th  
APRIL 2020

Hats are compulsory in  
Terms 1, 3 and 4



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# Agriculture

A month ago Nathan Tink (Western Ag) rang me asking if we would be interested in carrying out some grid soil mapping at Verco's farm. This process would usually cost \$1000; however, Western Ag, along with Precision Agriculture have sponsored the school to conduct the testing. Will Langdon (Precision Agriculture) and Nathan met the Year 11 Agriculture students at the farm. They spoke about the collecting process, the results we will receive, and how to repair the land if a deficiency occurs. Their knowledge was amazing and the students and myself learnt a lot about how they collect and analyse the data. We have now received the results and it is showing that the soil is quite acidic. We are planting beans this year and getting the pH right is critical. They need it to be neutral for nitrogen fixation. We have spoken to Geoff Pilgrim who will now spread gypsum and lime in the required amounts using his variable spreader. During this process we will leave three test strips in each paddock for students to use as a cropping trial assessment later in the year.



Due to online learning I will be able to upload the data maps for students to observe and analyse. This data will be part of an assessment that they will be able to access and complete online. I would like to thank Nathan and Will for their time and generosity.

Helen Altus  
Agriculture Teacher



Chickens will be available at the end of Term 2. Please ring the Front Office to place your order.



A friend of mine recently sent me this and whilst reading it I felt a sense of peace. I decided for my own self-care I would reflect on this message each day and would like to share with you.

“Today may there be peace within.

May you trust that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born in yourself and others.

May you use the gifts that you have received and pass on love that has been given to you.

May you be content with yourself just the way you are.

Let this knowledge settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.

It is there for each and every one of us.”

During these difficult and changing times we need to look after ourselves so have a think about...

**F**riends/Family Even though we cannot physically spend time together we do have many social media apps that can connect us with those who make us feel good, or those we feel a need to reach out to and support. E.g. Houseparty and Zoom. It is important to connect with others and talk about how we are feeling, and to also put a name to that feeling.

**R**est How many times have you thought in the past, “Oh if only I could just stay home”. Now we do have the opportunity to do this, we don’t have meetings, fundraisers, or sport to attend; we can rest at home. Do it! You could watch some old family videos of when your kids were young and cute. Enjoy special memories and give your body the chance to be still.

**E**xercise We can still exercise in our house, in our own back yard or in a surrounding space of serenity. The only thing stopping us is ourselves. There’s plenty of apps for this too. E.g. Tabata.

**D**iet Eat well. We do live in the ‘Good Country’, and there is an abundance of all we need right here locally. It’s so important to look after our bodies, physically and mentally. Food is our fuel.

**S**unshine At the moment the sun is shining, take it in if only for 5 minutes each day, let it shine on you. It feels good! Our body needs Vitamin D.

Right now we are in a strange season but we are all in it together, nobody has ever experienced something like this before. Trust expert’s advice. We are all trying to find our way so let us be grateful, brave and hopeful as we walk this journey together. We are not alone!

I am trying to practice the above, and ME, - I also Pray.....For YOU.....For our Community.....For our World. Hoping to see you all soon, NOT from such a ‘Social Distance’. This will pass.

Cathy Hinge  
Pastoral Care Worker  
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Local café, Café La Vie are providing recess, fruit, lunch and a drink each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. It is a delight to witness the gratitude from students, who, for various reasons, can enjoy this food which also assists their concentration and learning. To support this generosity, and to keep this great project going it is simple. You can “pay it forward”, \$5 will give a child lunch. Please get behind Café La Vie to continue making a difference.

