



Dear **Parents and Caregivers**

Thank you for your ongoing support as we work together to respond to the evolving COVID-19 situation.

As announced by the Premier on Sunday 9 January, the start of the 2022 school year in Queensland will move from 24 January to 7 February to avoid opening schools during the predicted peak of the Omicron wave and allow more time for children to receive their COVID-19 vaccinations.

Supervision of vulnerable children and the children of essential workers

Our school will remain open for children of essential workers and vulnerable children during this period. Essential workers are only those who absolutely must continue to attend their workplace during this time. The Department of Education has asked all parents to consider the Chief Health Officer's advice and stay home with your children if you can. To assist us in providing supervision for your child during this period, please email details of your child's full name and year level, along with the days they will need to attend school to admin@balmoralshs.eq.edu.au. The school canteen will not be open during this period. If you need to send your child to school, you must ensure your child is well and not displaying any signs of illness.

We are reducing the number of staff on our school site to minimise transmission and further protect the health and safety of our school community. School staff will supervise any students who attend school. We will not be providing teaching activities during this time, nor are you expected to supervise remote learning for students who remain at home. However, if you would like to support your child's learning during this time you can access the Department of Education's [learning@home website](#). This site contains a range of student learning material and links to other high-quality education websites.

Year 11 & 12 Learning @ Home

From Monday 31 January, Year 11 and 12 students will undertake remote learning for one week until the revised formal start of the school year on 7 February. I know that **Learning @ Home** has successfully been undertaken at BSHS in the past thanks to the efforts of staff and parents working collaboratively to support our students. This endeavour will continue to be a focus for us with the current situation and we will communicate with the year 11 & 12 cohort.

Year 7 Start

A separate email will be sent to all year 7 families outlining the start-up program for your student.

Wellbeing

At all year levels, the wellbeing of our students is our primary concern. We ask that all parents closely monitor their children to assess how they are handling the ramifications of this delay to face-to-face learning. This can include the disappointment that comes with an event being postponed, missing friends and social activities or just feeling down about the current situation. The links below provide some information you may find helpful alternatively you can contact the school Guidance Officer to discuss any concerns.

[Beyond Blue](#) - 1300 22 4636

[Headspace](#) – 1800 650 890

[Kids Helpline](#) – 1800 55 1800

[Lifeline](#) – 13 11 14

[Parentline](#) – 13 22 89

Real Opportunities...Real Outcomes...Real Futures

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On Campus Health and Hygiene Measures

The health, safety and wellbeing of our community is of utmost importance to us. As such, we will be implementing the following health and hygiene measures on campus, in line with advice from Queensland Health and any other relevant government requirements:

- Face masks must be worn at all times while on campus.
- All visitors to the School will be required to check in using the Check-in Qld App.
- All staff are required to be compliant with the Chief Health Officer's COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements for Workers in a high-risk setting.
- Everyone on campus is encouraged to practice good personal health and hand hygiene, particularly around social distancing and regular hand washing. Additional hand sanitiser stations will be placed around the campus.
- Additional cleaning will continue throughout the campus, with a focus on classrooms and high traffic areas. This also includes following deep cleaning protocols should a positive case occur on campus.
- Community health messages and infographics will be placed around campus to promote effective behaviours to minimise virus spread such as social distancing and hand washing.
- Individuals who experience any COVID-19 symptoms, no matter how mild, are to follow the direction of Queensland Health to get tested and stay home.

It is my enduring wish that this modified start to the school year along with the other measures in society will allow us to return to campus on 7 February. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

We will continue to communicate regularly to ensure that our community is kept informed of the latest updates. Further information for parents has been developed including [frequently asked questions](#).

I look forward to meeting with many of you as we return to face-to-face learning over the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely



Linda Galloway
Principal