

24 March 2020

Dear Families and Caregivers

**RE: COVID-19 UPDATE – ONLINE DELIVERY**

Norwood Morialta High School continues to be a safe place of learning and we encourage our students to attend. The school has undertaken a range of precautionary measures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff.

This week the school has experienced high levels of absenteeism with a large number of families choosing to keep their children home due to the risks associated with COVID-19. This is an individual family decision which the school respects.

As a result of these absences we have received an increasing number of requests for additional work and support for students at home. We are pleased that parents are supporting their children with a home-based program and we will ensure that lesson instructions are provided on Daymap each day. Our teachers will also continue to assist absent students where possible, however it is important to remember that their first priority needs to be the students attending classes. Some parents may have assumed the NMHS Online Learning were already in place, however these guidelines are for any potential school closures and will be implemented at such time.

Currently our teachers undertake a full day of teaching along with additional responsibilities. They are under enormous pressure to not only provide support for their students, but to continue to plan and assess for their classes, write school reports as well as prepare for any potential school closure.

We are mindful that many of our teachers also have family obligations and that the balance between professional and personal pressures needs to be maintained for the good of all in our school community.

It is for this reason that individual requests to provide additional work and support beyond what is currently on Daymap cannot be immediately accommodated. Teachers will endeavour to support their students who are staying at home, however this not a small or easy task. I seek your patience when requesting assistance.

Our committed and skilful teachers at Norwood Morialta High School use a combination of learning approaches to engage our students, including direct instruction, challenge-based learning and interactive technologies, just to name a few. As these practices are varied in each class and subject, it is difficult to simply upload instructions and materials online without considerable planning and time.

The school plans dedicating the next **Student Free Day on Friday 3 April** to advance preparation and support of flexible online learning for any potential school closure. Please note that this event has been moved forward due to the importance (and potential urgency) of this work. The school will remain open in Week 11 with the dismissal of students at 1:00pm on Thursday 9 April, unless directed otherwise.

We seek your patience and understanding at this time.

Yours sincerely



Jacqui van Ruiten  
Principal



**NORWOOD  
MORIALTA  
HIGH SCHOOL**

**MIDDLE CAMPUS**

Morialta Road West  
Rostrevor SA 5073  
TEL: +618 8365 0455

**SENIOR CAMPUS**

505 The Parade  
Magill SA 5072  
TEL: +618 8364 2299

PO Box 180,  
Magill SA 5072

dl.0787.info  
@schools.sa.edu.au  
[www.nmhs.sa.edu.au](http://www.nmhs.sa.edu.au)

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