



# Many Ways to Excellence

# Sunnybank

## STATE HIGH SCHOOL

### **IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL LEAH FOUNTAINE COVID-19 UPDATE**

26 March 2020

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Due to the ever changing situation with COVID-19, we thank our parents and caregivers for your cooperation, support and communication with us. What we, as a community, are currently experiencing is unprecedented and extraordinary. The landscape is constantly changing and we are receiving streams of information from a variety of sources, not all of which is consistent or helpful. As Education Department employees, school staff are required to follow the advice from the Government. In a situation characterised by unfamiliarity and uncertainty, effective responses are sometimes implemented at short notice as the advice from Government and Health authorities changes.

As you would be aware, The Queensland Premier, after consulting with Health and Education authorities, announced that, unless otherwise advised by health experts, Queensland schools will remain open until the Easter break. This is in alignment with the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday night.

The Premier stated:

- Qld schools will remain open until the end of term 1
- Parents or caregivers have a choice to keep students home but if they do, parents or caregivers must be responsible for:
  - Advising the school the child is not attending school and for how long;
  - Ensuring the child maintains continuity of learning at home;
  - Ensuring the child is appropriately supervised and exercises social distancing.
  - The responsibility for students who do not attend school will be with the parent or caregiver.

In accordance with advice from Health and Government officials, Sunnybank State High School remains open and our teaching staff are facilitating our normal learning routines, curriculum and assessment.

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PO Box 2, Sunnybank Q 4109

**P: (07) 3323 8111**

E: [Principal@sunnybankshs.eq.edu.au](mailto:Principal@sunnybankshs.eq.edu.au)

Education Queensland International CRICOS Provider No. 00608A

We are currently experiencing high rates of absenteeism and we support the decision of parents to keep children at home based on the advice you are receiving and your family circumstances. Should you choose to keep your child at home, please advise us via email: [studentabsences@sunnybankshs.eq.edu.au](mailto:studentabsences@sunnybankshs.eq.edu.au) or leave a message on the School Absentee line: 3323 8160 or use the QParents App. Absences will be recorded as authorised.

I would reiterate that teaching staff are presently focused on facilitating classes while the school is open and do not have the time available to individualise or customise services for students at home. For parents/caregivers who make the choice to keep their child at home, our teachers have been asked to provide general instructions relating to key learning areas available through The Learning Place accessible via the schools website using the students' usual school login and password. The Education Department has also provided on-line learning options through the learning@home hub. Visit:

[qld.gov.au/learningathome](http://qld.gov.au/learningathome). Parents and students can find Quick Links on the home page of our school website [www.sunnybankshs.eq.edu.au](http://www.sunnybankshs.eq.edu.au) for access to Student Email, The Learning Place and Student Intranet.

If you choose to keep your child at home and do not have access to technology the school can provide hard copy materials for Year 7 – 10 students. If you need these hard copy resources please contact the school via email [admin@sunnybankshs.eq.edu.au](mailto:admin@sunnybankshs.eq.edu.au) or call 3323 8111 to arrange collection at Student Services.

At this stage our Parent Teacher Evening planned for Term 2 will be cancelled although you will receive your child's interim report electronically after the holidays. I stress that this report card is a Term 1 progress report only, not an achievement result. If students have not meet all assessment requirements due to absences, teachers will make judgements from student work samples that have been undertaken throughout the term. The interim report is designed to give parents/caregivers and the students an indication of how they are tracking towards their end-of semester result. More specifically, as our senior students are on a two year program it is important that students ensure that they are on track for the Queensland Certificate of Education. If academic reporting highlights any areas of concerns students and parents should contact their teachers and/or Guidance Officer for further advice.

As a school, we have implemented all government regulations and will continue to do what we can to ensure our school is a safe place. As our guidelines and directives are changing rapidly, it is essential that we are able to communicate any changes to our school community quickly. We will continue to email parents directly, but we do have a significant number of families who either do not have an email address, or who need an interpreter. For this reason, all our updates will also be placed into the documents section of our website <https://sunnybankshs.eq.edu.au/support-and-resources/forms-and-documents/documents> in the Covid-10 folder and on our Facebook page.

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Students in attendance at school will also be informed of communication updates available on these sites so students can assist with relaying of important information to their homes. Hard copies of letters will no longer be mailed home as information is changing so rapidly. We urge all our community to monitor these pages often, and ask for help if you need the information translated. In line with keeping our community safe we ask that parents limit their personal contact with teachers, administration and all staff at this time, and if possible to observe social distancing rules. We do realise that this is very difficult in a school situation. If you need to contact a member of staff or Administration, we would prefer that the communication be via email or telephone. We are only too happy to answer any of your questions that you may have in light of current advice via the outlined communication protocols.

Any potential future enrolment interviews will not occur as face-to-face meetings, but will be directed to email at [admin@sunnybankshs.eq.edu.au](mailto:admin@sunnybankshs.eq.edu.au) . Thank you all for your continued co-operation and support of your children and our school. I would also add my thanks and admiration to the students themselves for their positive co-operation and participation at this time. Finally, I thank our wonderful staff both teaching and non-teaching for their ongoing commitment and professionalism during these uncertain times.

As the school remains open and operational, I would emphasise that the current environment is ever-changing and evolving and that this can happen quickly and our plans may need to be revisited and re-examined.

In the meantime, we will endeavour to provide a safe learning environment for our students and staff, remain positive, communicate regularly and keep our students engaged in learning!

Thank you all again for your support and cooperation. Stay safe and well.



Leah Fountaine  
Principal  
Sunnybank State High School