



26 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your continued cooperation with our school during this unprecedented time. I recognise the additional pressures placed on you and again thank you sincerely for your dedication and support. It is a difficult time. Most of us have not seen anything like this in our lifetime. I have included some information from our Director- General, Mr Tony Cook, and have provided additional Foxwell specific details.

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 have been 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 teaching staff 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.

School staff will be expected to be in attendance at their normal school location next week, unless they fit the category of vulnerable staff. Vulnerable staff who are well but not attending their school are required to undertake their planning and preparation work from home.

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 at Foxwell State Secondary College are well advanced in our contingency preparations to respond to the evolving nature of COVID-19 and you would be aware that our school has already moved to our 'Continuity of Learning' Plan, and the department has also developed a comprehensive suite of paper-based and electronic teaching and learning resources to support students and families.

I appreciate that these unforeseen circumstances will challenge families and schools in how we continue to provide teaching and learning opportunities for our students.

Our Director General would like to assure you that these 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 the 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.

I'm sure you join me in acknowledging the work of our Foxwell staff which has been characterised by strong commitment, professionalism and exceptional support for our students and school community over these difficult times.

Doing this however, brings its own challenges, anxiety and stress and I continue to remind you to look out for your own wellbeing and that of your family. This is a challenging, complex time, the nature of which we have never experienced, but our strength through this period is in the strength of our relationships. Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding. We will miss seeing your smiling faces here at our school, but know that we are still here with you and for you.

Kind regards,  
**Foxwell State Secondary College**

Mrs Kym Amor, Principal