

Dear Parents, Caregivers & Students

Online Trial

First of all many thanks to all the families that logged on during our trial yesterday. Like all trials there were some issues, some of which we have addressed and some are still being worked on. Links on DayMap that led to error messages was an issue with the platform, which was addressed overnight. There were also issues from the student's end, most of which was forgotten passwords. The goal was to find errors and address them and from this perspective, the trial was successful.

Term II

At this stage, there is every likelihood that schools will not be open after the Easter break and learning will be conducted online. How long this continues is anyone's guess.

Each day students will log on to DayMap using their current daily timetable but at slightly different times (see below). On DayMap there will be instructions about how to access lessons and resources.

Term II Online Learning Schedule

Lesson	Time
1	9.00am – 10.00am
2	10.15am – 11.15am
BREAK	11.15am – 12.00pm
3	12.00pm – 1.00pm
4	1.15pm – 2.15pm

There is a variety of platforms from which learning will occur. The platforms have been selected by teachers according to which best suits each subject. The most commonly used platform is **Blackboard** which is part of the **The Learning Place** <https://students.learningplace.eq.edu.au/Pages/Default.aspx>

Each class has a space on the learning place **Blackboard** site that contains lessons, resources, blogs and an assessment tool. **The Learning Place** also contains the video conferencing platform known as **Collaborate**.

Both **Blackboard** and **Collaborate** are good tools but neither were designed for the volume of users expected during a pandemic. In addition, the school's bandwidth is stretched with 100 teachers simultaneously streaming videos to students. For this reason, it is difficult to deliver live face-to-face lessons, every lesson, and every day. Similarly at home, streaming four hours of video each, multiplied by the number of children you have at the school places a heavy load on your own bandwidth and data.

It is my expectation for teachers to deliver at least one of the three lessons per subject each week via live face-to-face videoconferencing. This is an opportunity for students to connect with teachers to ask questions, for teachers to check for understanding but perhaps most importantly allow our young people to simply connect to a community, albeit their class. I think this is critical for their wellbeing. If this situation continues into week 4 next term, some of our students will have been largely isolated at home for 8 – 9 weeks.

Many teachers are pre-recording lessons and uploading them to Blackboard, Clickview and YouTube. Links will be provided each lesson for these pre-recorded lessons. Teachers are always available to students and families via email and by phone.

Learning@home

Parents

- In the weeks following the break, we are asking for your support to assist us in providing learning@home. **The holidays end on April 20 and school begins.**
- Encourage students to organize their time and take responsibility for their learning by ensuring they are engaging with the correct subject matter/class at the correct time according to their timetable.
- Ensure that students have access to Daymap, school email (____@eq.edu.au) and Online Learning Platforms. Contact it@pimpamassc.eq.edu.au if there are IT issues.
- Be familiar with the Homework and Assessment Policy and assist students to communicate with teachers as required.
- Communicate with school staff as necessary, allowing staff members up to 48 hours Monday to Friday to respond.
- Where a practical activity is required, ensure that students have adequate space to participate safely.

Students

- Try to login to each class at the scheduled times. We understand if this is not always possible, e.g. some older students might be assisting younger siblings throughout the day. Communicate with your teacher and login when you can.
- Complete set tasks, quizzes etc... This is the way teachers monitor your participation in learning and your understanding of what is being taught.
- Be respectful in all of your online communication.

If you have no access to a working device and/or internet

Please contact the school and let us know your child's name and year level. An USB or hard copy of resources will be provided. These will be available on Wednesday of Week 1, April 22.

Email: SFDAttendance@pimpamassc.eq.edu.au, Phone: 5540 9333

Student Wellbeing

All of our students currently case managed by support staff will have a twice weekly phone check-in with Student Advisors. Teachers will monitor student participation in learning and contact home where this is not occurring

Support from guidance officers and school-based youth health nurse are available:

1. Mel Baker: Years 9, 10 & 12 mbake142@eq.edu.au
2. Nicole Jones: Year 7, 8 & 11 nwhid2@eq.edu.au
3. School Based Nurse sbyhn@GoldCoast@health.qld.gov.au Ph: 5687 9183

Support from external agencies is also available:

- Kids Helpline: <https://kidshelpline.com.au/> OR call 1800 55 1800
- Reach Out: <https://au.reachout.com/>
- Lifeline: <https://www.lifeline.org.au/> OR call 13 11 14
- Youth Beyond Blue: <https://www.youthbeyondblue.com/> OR <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/the-facts/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>
- Headspace: <https://headspace.org.au/young-people/life-issues/>
- ESafety: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/young-people>
- Black Dog Institute: <https://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/research/digital-dog/what-is-digital-dog>
- Emerging Minds: <https://emergingminds.com.au/>

Learning Placemat

The following is a link to our digital learning placemat. It has a few useful links to different platforms. The link **'How do I look after myself'** has some very good resources for students at home.

<https://indd.adobe.com/view/76594a78-cd32-470b-8f03-6632520f35ff>

Don't Worry

We are all in this together. Don't forget most of your teachers are also parents. Our kids are at school or home alone like many your kids. Every student in Queensland is in the same boat and they will all be OK. When all the students are back in the classrooms we will figure out where they are at and adjust curriculum to meet their needs. This is what teachers do for a living.

If we can all focus on one thing, it is at the end of the day our health and wellbeing are our priority. How they felt during this time will be more important than what they missed in Maths or English or Art or any other subject. Let's keep that in mind every single day.

Our school motto seems even more relevant than ever these days: Together we succeed. Our college expectations (with a slight tweak) also seem pretty important right now:

- Look after yourself
- Look after each other
- Look after ~~our~~ your place