

Brisbane Boys' College

A New School of Thought.



9 January 2022

Dear BBC Families,

It is my great honour to be writing to you as the tenth Headmaster of Brisbane Boys' College at the start of our 120th Anniversary. This long and rich history provides us with a wonderful launch pad with which we can move toward an exciting future which embraces our past, acknowledges our present with an eye to the future. I am humbled and excited to share this journey with you.

It was my hope that my first correspondence to the community would not be one which is focused on the issue that has confronted our world over the past two years – COVID-19. But if this period has taught us anything, it is that we need to be flexible and resilient in the face of the challenges before us. Moreover, given the rising case numbers in Queensland over the last few weeks I felt that it was prudent to write.

Before I highlight what the College has undertaken over the past few days, please allow me to share with you my three guiding principles regarding our COVID-19 response. These have served me well in the past and I am confident that they will deliver similar at BBC.

Firstly, and most importantly, the safety and wellbeing of all our community is our highest priority. Our Compliance Team and associated staff are aware of all prevailing protocols and ensure that we are up to date with these requirements. All our decisions moving forward will be with this central tenet at the forefront. Secondly, we will be following the directives of Queensland Health completely to ensure the protection of our community. The Government and their medical health advisors are specialists in these matters, and we wish to leverage this expertise.

Finally, I promise that we will communicate early and often regarding all COVID-19 related issues. I find that nature abhors a vacuum. To that end, to reduce the inevitable speculation that will occur around this topic I promise that the College's response will be shared as quickly as possible with our community.

Last Friday, I met with the College's Compliance Team to ensure that we are up to date with all the expectations of Queensland Health – I am pleased to advise that this is the case.

Following the Premier's announcement this morning regarding the delayed start to the commencement of the Term, our Year 11 and 12 students will commence Learning at Home as of **Monday, 31 January** with a return to on-campus face-to-face learning on **Monday, 7 February**. Our Prep to Year 10 boys will commence the term with face-to-face learning on **Monday, 7 February**.

I am meeting with the College Executive this week and please rest assured that the continuity of learning for all our boys along with the wellbeing of our community will be the primary focus of our discussions. The details of our planning will be shared with you by **Friday, 14 January**. This will allow us to ensure that the College and our staff are fully prepared for the academic year.



I know that Learning at Home has successfully been undertaken at BBC in the past thanks to the efforts of staff and parents working collaboratively to support our young men. This endeavour will continue to be a focus for us with the current situation.

I know that these uncertainties will present some anxiety for our community, however, please remain confident that the College is doing all that it can to support our boys, our staff and our broader community. I have already engaged with several members of the BBC family and the sense of camaraderie, determination and resilience were apparent in each of these encounters. It is this Highlander Spirit that has served us well in the past and will serve us well as we move forward.

I wish you all the best for what remains of the Christmas Holidays. Please look after each other. I look forward to meeting many of you at the start of Term 1.

Kind regards

Mr Andre Casson
Headmaster