



BUSSELTON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

RESPECT • EMPATHY • ACHIEVE • LEARN

In the event of a school closure, the following information is provided to ensure that students, staff members, parents and guardians are aware of the approach that we will follow and the resources and support that will be available.

Day 1 of School Closure

The first school day that the school is not operating as normal is to be used as time for planning and getting organised (see below). The School Principal will send a communication message to all parents and guardians at approximately 10:30 am each day that the school is closed. This will be the main source of communication for parents and could be via email, text or connect message depending on the content.

Tasks for students

1. Review timetable and information provided previously by teachers in regards to flexible learning delivery.
 - access *Connect* and review course outlines, and/or
 - conduct on audit on your current due or outstanding work requirements.
2. Establish a home study space, schedule and become familiar with the 'rules' for online learning. Advice is provided by the Department of Education via the following:
<https://www.education.wa.edu.au/learning-at-home/learning-environment>
3. Familiarise yourself with other resources and self-help guides that are available via our school website under the COVID tab – (insert link)

Day 2 Onwards

Teachers will be communicating to students through Connect and available for students as per their normal timetable for the day. Year 7-10 students will have certain periods highlighted as being interactive lessons with their teachers. Other lessons will be for students to do some personal work on assigned activities or for communicating with their teachers via email, Connect or other means communicated to the students by their teachers.

Student health and wellbeing will continue to be an important priority for us during online learning. Student Services Staff will monitor students and be available for parents with any concerns about their child's welfare. Student engagement and output in online learning activities will be monitored by their teachers and any concerns will be communicated to parents and Student Services.

There will be no formal assessments during the first week of school closure, although students will be encouraged to self-assess and teachers may set quizzes to test understanding etc.

Week 2

While we hope that schools will only be closed for a limited time, we will be reviewing the situation and making adjustments on an ongoing basis. If schools were to be closed for longer than a week, we will communicate any changes or additional advice to parents, and teachers will communicate this to students.

Parent Roles

Parents will play an important role in ensuring that students understand the arrangements and have their personal study space organised. We know that some young people will be challenged and may become distressed by the need for schools to close. Parents naturally play an important role in supporting students and in encouraging them to keep things in perspective and adopt a positive mindset. It will be beneficial for students to develop a routine that includes study breaks and physical activity, as well as some relaxation or time for social interaction with others.

I encourage parents to scan the resources below and to read the Guiding Principles for Online Learning as it is important that we all recognise the need to be patient, flexible and sensitive to the circumstances of all.

- <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/learning-at-home/support-for-parents-and-carers>
- <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/learning-at-home/learning-resources-by-year-level>

Guiding principles for online learning

- Our community will have different levels of capacity to engage with online learning. Families may face very difficult circumstances during this time. Our expectations of learning continuing outside of school must be responsive to our community and to the circumstances of individual families.
- We understand that families must prioritise the health and wellbeing of their children and other relatives. Teachers will consider their circumstances when they communicate with you. We do not want to cause additional stress by our expectations of student learning. It is recognised, however, that continuity of learning may assist with student wellbeing.
- This is a very challenging time for our community, including our staff. Current capacity to deliver learning online will vary considerably and while we are doing everything reasonably possible to prepare our teachers for online delivery, expectations should be fair and reasonable. This cannot be at the expense of staff health and wellbeing or any obligations they may have to their families.
- Positive relationships between students and their teachers are the foundations of effective teaching and learning. All reasonable efforts should be made to maintain connection and care between students and their teachers if schooling is disrupted and/or the school is closed.
- Care for students includes helping them to manage their own concerns about learning and achievement. For example, reassurance needs to be given to Year 11 and 12 students that SCSSA's special provisions and sickness/misadventure processes will ensure no student is unfairly disadvantaged.

External Support

Many community agencies and support groups are available outside of school, including Headspace, Child and Adolescent Mental Health, Community Health Services, and private counselling services.

Suitable services can be identified through your GP recommendations or searching the web. The local headspace is often a good place to start, and they offer free or low-cost services. This link will help you find your nearest Headspace centre <https://headspace.org.au/headspace-centres/>

Confidential services are also available via the services below, with many online resources available:

- Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800
- Lifeline WA 13 11 14
- Beyond Blue 1300 22 4636
- Centre for Clinical Interventions 1300 555 788