

16 April 2020

## Independent Schools Rise to the Challenges of COVID-19

Queensland independent schools and their dedicated staff are this week testing technology, finalising lesson materials and communicating their new-look approaches to learning for Term 2 with their parents and students.

Learning will re-commence at school or at home for independent school students across the state commencing from the week starting 20 April.

Consistent with Australian and Queensland Government advice independent schools will be open for vulnerable students and the children of parents working in essential services.

They will also adhere to the latest advice on physical distancing, hygiene and sanitisation to safeguard the health of their students and staff who are on campus.

Independent Schools Queensland (ISQ) Executive Director David Robertson said independent schools share the Prime Minister's fervent commitment to maintaining student learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Over this challenging period, independent schools, their boards and principals have been acting in the best interests of their students, informed by the latest government and health advice, while also taking into account the unique needs of their diverse parent communities and local contexts," Mr Robertson said.

"They have an array of stakeholders – staff, students, parents, governments and local communities – who have different and sometimes competing demands," he said.

"When you add to this the complexity of the current health, border and economic restrictions in place, independent schools – most of whom are single stand-alone institutions – are balancing on a tightrope as they chart their way forward.

"Their experienced principals, teachers, staff and boards deserve to be commended for the way they have risen to this immense challenge, developing learning solutions and programs in record time, while also compassionately dealing with the heartbreaks and hardships being experienced by members of their close-knit communities.

"They will continue to lead, guide and support student learning in both familiar and innovative ways. They will continue to monitor, assess and respond to any updated advice from authorities, while also listening and acting on the feedback of their students, teachers and parents in the weeks ahead."

Mr Robertson said ISQ had been working closely with both levels of government and their respective education departments to table and work through issues of concern to the sector.

"ISQ looks forward to ongoing cooperation between the Federal and State and Territory Governments for the ongoing provision of a positive learning environment for all young Australians."

**MEDIA CONTACT | Justine Nolan | 0428 612 315 | [jnolan@isq.qld.edu.au](mailto:jnolan@isq.qld.edu.au)**