



Golden Grove High School



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education



Department for Education
T/A South Australian
Government Schools
CRICOS Provider No 00018A

NEWS

Respect • Equality • Pride • Integrity • Resilience

12 May 2020

Principal's Update



COVID-19 UPDATE

South Australia continues to do well and is leading the nation in eliminating new cases of COVID-19 through strong adherence to social distancing expectations, self-isolation protocols, excellent hygiene practices and the state's stringent tracking and monitoring of active cases. The Department for Education, with the support of SA Health, has advised they now expect all students to be at school from this week for normal face to face lessons. Students should only be at home if they are unwell.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Golden Grove High School community for the strong support you have provided to the school during this incredibly challenging period. You have implemented everything we have asked of you and because the situation was changing so rapidly, you often only received a few days' notice. Online classes worked extremely well in the first week of this term with high levels of engagement and rapid learning for both staff and students in how to use the new technology. Last week when we asked you to support us to return for face to face lessons you did this. Student attendance last week was between 80% and 85%, which is only slightly below our normal attendance rates before COVID-19.

The other group of people who deserve our praise, gratitude and thanks are the wonderful staff at Golden Grove High School. When the decision was made to move to online learning they didn't complain. They amplified their positivity and threw themselves into learning how to deliver lessons online in a few short days. They did this magnificently, supporting each other with their learning and I think they did a fabulous job of connecting with all of their students to ensure learning could continue as usual. We will ensure staff do not lose these new skills, so they will be ready to go should we need to return to online learning again in the future if a second wave of infections occurs, (hopefully not). If you have experienced a positive moment with one of our teachers or leaders, or found a friendly voice on the end of the phone when you have rung with a question, I would appreciate if you could find five minutes to send through an email to the person letting them know how they have made a difference to you and your child(ren).

CAPITAL WORKS UPDATE

Progress with our capital work project is on-track. During the recent school holidays demolition of the four transportable buildings began. Work will continue for another week or two (weather dependent) clearing the site and preparing the surface for the foundation works for the two new buildings scheduled to occur sometime in July. It has been fascinating watching the massive excavator tear down the buildings as if they are cardboard and then watching with marvel as the operator uses the various buckets and claws to sort the different building materials into piles so they can be loaded onto big dump trucks and taken away for recycling wherever possible.

I have included some photos so you can see the size of the space that has been cleared in preparation for the new buildings.



The Demolition Begins



Golden Grove High School



Demolition of the Transportable Buildings in Progress



Matt O'Brien, our new Pastoral Care Worker

STAFF NEWS

Amy Tracey (Technologies Leader) is a proud new mum to her first son Archie, born on 29 April. Mum and son have returned home from hospital and are both doing well. This is a very exciting time for Amy and her partner and we wish them all the best from the staff and students at Golden Grove High School.

Matt O'Brien is our newly appointed Pastoral Care Worker. Matt will be with us for the next three years in this role and works two days per week (Tuesday and Friday). Matt will spend the next few weeks getting to know the school, meeting staff and saying hello to as many students as he can. Matt is a very welcome addition to the Wellbeing Team and we are very confident that students will benefit from the opportunities Matt will provide to our young people as he settles into his new role.

Elspeth Grant has been successful in her application to be a curriculum writer for HASS for all of Term 2. Whilst we will miss not having Elspeth with us for this time, the work she will do over the next 10 weeks for the Department for Education will be extremely valuable and appreciated by both staff and students for years to come. We welcome **Kate Donovan** to the school who will be taking Elspeth's classes this term.

John Risk is on leave for four weeks. **Kevin Hisee** will be taking his classes during this period.

Peter Kuss
Principal