

# Department of Education

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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14 October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

The return to face-to-face learning on school sites from May this year has provided us all with a welcome taste of normality again. We are both immensely proud of the way our schools, staff, students and families have risen to the challenges and changes that 2020 has presented us. Thank you all for your support and assistance this year. While schools remain safe, it is important that we are careful not to be complacent in facing the risks that COVID-19 presents. The implications of the pandemic are always changing and this requires us to remain flexible and adaptable to the different stages of restrictions and advice from Public Health. Your assistance in helping our schools to continue to follow this important advice has been very much appreciated.

We are fortunate in Tasmania that updated health advice and changes to restrictions meant that we were able to re-commence a number of school activities last term. Going into Term 4, some of these activities will continue to look a bit different to what we are used to. These changes are in place so that activities can still go ahead for our students and school communities. Thank you for your understanding and for your help in complying with these extra measures. We know that for some there may be some disappointment in being unable to participate in certain activities in the way that was expected at the beginning of the year. Our first consideration has always been the health and safety of our students, staff and the wider community.

During Term 4, as per Public Health advice, all adults must maintain physical distance from each other at all times (1.5 metres) on school sites and at school events. You remain a critical part of your child's education, and while it is important that we continue to follow this health advice, maintaining a strong relationship with you is still a priority. We encourage you to speak with your school's principal or child's teacher if you have any concerns about your child's learning.

Thank you again for your support and cooperation during a year like no other. All of the work our schools have undertaken, in conjunction with their school communities, has been nothing short of inspiring and it would not have been possible without your support.

As always, our plans will remain in line with Public Health advice. We will continue to remain flexible and responsive to the situation, and will keep our communities informed of any changes, as they arise. Schools are committed to helping your child achieve their very best, and it is encouraging to see how far we have come this year already. We wish all our students and their families well for the remainder of 2020.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Bullard".

Tim Bullard  
Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremy Rockliff".

Jeremy Rockliff MP  
Minister for Education and Training