

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

I warmly welcome our new families to BrisbaneSDE and extend a welcome back to our continuing students.

It is a privilege to lead BrisbaneSDE as Executive Principal in 2026. Already, I have been impressed by the strength of our programs, the professionalism and dedication of our staff, and—most importantly—the genuine culture of care that underpins our school's vision and values. This strong foundation positions us well for a successful year, focused on supporting every student to learn, grow and achieve their potential.

An important element of effective learning in a distance education environment is active engagement. From 2026, students will be expected to have their cameras and microphones on during lessons when directed by their teacher. We recognise that this may feel challenging for some students; however, it is an expectation for all students and an important part of creating engaging, interactive learning experiences.

Our experience, supported by academic data, shows that when cameras and microphones are used purposefully as teaching tools, student engagement, connection and learning outcomes improve. As educators, we have a responsibility to provide the best possible learning environment, and we ask for your partnership in supporting students who may need time, reassurance or encouragement as they adjust to this expectation.

To support students, teachers will use Connect lessons to share practical strategies, including how to set up Teams backgrounds and participate confidently in online learning spaces. These lessons will focus on building confidence, comfort and a strong sense of belonging.

At BrisbaneSDE, we are committed to enhancing each student's learning and wellbeing through strong collaboration with families and the broader community. Thank you for your ongoing support and for working with us to ensure a positive and successful year of learning in 2026.

Kind regards,

Tracey Hopper

Executive Principal

Brisbane School of Distance Education