

Navigating Year 12 in 2022

Elke Robertson (Yr 12) along with her siblings Riley (Yr 11) and Livia (Yr 8) are students and boarders at Townsville Grammar School with Elke entering her final year in secondary school. The Robertson family herald from 'Orielson Station', a cattle operation in central west Queensland, some 170 kms south of Hughenden.

Elke is no stranger to online and home schooling. While this marks her sixth, and final, year with Townsville Grammar School, it was preceded by seven years of home schooling with her siblings and Mum as tutor, through Longreach School of Distance Education.

Being selected to lead her school this year as Townsville Grammar School Boarder Captain and Prefect has been a huge honour. Unfortunately public attendance at Leadership induction ceremonies have all been put on hold, due to the increased COVID outbreak here in Queensland, but Elke remains optimistic the year will return to some sense of 'new normality' in due course.

There is certainly a feeling of déjà vu for Elke and her fellow 2022 senior cohort who have seen many of their mates graduate the past two years under similar, and very unique, COVID circumstances. Like term two in 2020, when Queensland students were home based for schooling, going online again for the first fortnight of 2022 has just been a return to 'old familiarities' for Elke. She feels exceptionally fortunate to have had the best of both worlds in these two forms of education.

There's a need for tenacity, adaptiveness and flexibility which our students have applied amidst a pandemic pedagogy that will prepare them for the 'new norms' ahead. Like many in our 'neck of the woods', I strongly believe it is our country kids who are paving the way on this path.

Netta Robertson

Elke is the 2022 Boarder Captain at
Townsville Grammar School

Elke completing online learning at home

