

# TOMAREE HIGH SCHOOL – ADVICE FOR PARENTS/CARERS AND STUDENTS – RETURN TO SCHOOL - 25 MAY, 2020

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I would like to thank our school community for supporting the school through this very difficult time. We are very pleased that we are slowly returning to normal. From Monday 25 May, students will return in a full-time capacity. We will not be operating a dual learning environment. The one unit of work provided is in the classroom and additional work will generally not be provided.

Our focus will be supporting our teachers to continue to adopt online learning practices combined with face to face teaching methods to engage our students. Teaching staff will undertake a sustained journey to implement an approach to teaching and learning that includes explicit face-to-face teaching and online independent learning that meets the needs of students at Tomaree High School.

We want to keep the best parts of online learning and combine that with the best parts of direct instruction and develop our model of engaging education. We look forward to the challenge.

## RETURN TO SCHOOL - KEY POINTS

- Our canteen will be fully operational. We will not be having staggered break times, so it is important that students follow the directions of staff.
- Where possible we ask parents not to come into the school - if your child needs to be collected, please call the school, you will be asked identifying questions and we will sign the student out and they will meet you at the front of the school.
- Cash payments at the office are currently not accepted - preferably paying online. The canteen still accepts cash but prefer EFTPOS if possible.
- Practical work will recommence for most courses. The decision about what practical work will be done will be based on the ability of the classroom to be adequately prepared (for example - benches and equipment to be cleaned) and students will be advised. This applies to subjects such as cooking, woodwork/metalwork, agriculture, science and PE.
- Work experience is still suspended and VET students are not required to complete a work placement this year as part of the changes to guidelines for the HSC.
- Sport will need to be modified (especially for Year 9-10) as we are unable to access outside venues – more information will be provided.
- There will also be no excursions until we are advised that they can take place. This will be unlikely until the rest of the state allows for larger gatherings in public spaces.
- Please bring a water bottle to avoid drinking directly from bubblers.
- All school activities and operations will be in line with Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) and NSW Health guidelines as applicable.
- School students do not need to follow physical distancing guidelines, but should follow good hygiene practices like:
  - Regularly washing hands
  - Avoiding sharing drinks or food
  - Coughing or sneezing into your elbow, or a tissue which should be discarded immediately.

## ATTENDANCE

All students are expected to return to school. Students will be marked absent from Monday, if they do not attend. If there is an ongoing health issue preventing return, please contact the relevant Deputy Principal to discuss your concerns.

The specific department advice is all student should be at school unless:

- They have a medical certificate which states that they are unable to return to school due to an ongoing medical condition. Students who have a medical certificate to stay at home will be supported to learn from

home in line with regular procedures if they are able to. These regular procedures are different to what was offered during the learning from home period. If you require work to be provided to your child whilst they are at home due to an underlying health condition, you should contact the school for assistance.

- They are currently unwell. If your child is unwell, do not send them to school. If they are unwell at school you or your nominated emergency contact will need to collect them immediately. Please make sure your contact details are up to date.

## CLEANING

One of the reasons we are able to return to school is due to the arrival of supplies and enhanced cleaning services. Each day, cleaners are on site wiping over benches, railing and other touch surfaces. We have also received ample supplies of cleaning and sanitising products. Every classroom has a spray bottle of disinfectant so desks and chairs can be wiped over and we have enough hand sanitiser that there is a bottle in every classroom and every teacher also has their own bottle. We have ample stock to refill the bottles when needed. We also have adequate supplies of soap in toilets. If any of these run out, students should let the office know so it can be replenished quickly.

## BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE - BYOD

Before we moved to full remote learning, we were about to launch the BYOD program for Year 7. As we return to school, we ask that Year 7 bring a device with them so we can continue to program. The vast majority of students now have devices and are already connected through their class team.

We are exploring the options of laptop lockers, but we need to firstly determine where they could be located safely and in fact there is a need. The only times the devices will be away from students is during breaks. If students have a suitable protective case and they are careful in their bag placements, they should be able to keep them safe.

Mr Colley will be providing more information on this program.

## HSC

Year 12 should have had access by now to their HSC exam timetable. You will note that the examinations are a week later than previously scheduled. This will allow for us to have an uninterrupted amount of teaching time right through to the end of Term 3. Traditionally we held our Graduation assembly on the last Wednesday of Term 3. To allow for maximum class time, the assembly will be moved to the first week of Term 4 and the Formal will occur at the end of the exams. Final dates will be published as soon as we have clearance to hold these major events.

Year 11 and 12 will also receive adjusted Assessment Schedules. We were given permission for this year only, to make changes to the schedules in terms of due dates and weighting of tasks. Teachers have worked hard to ensure no student is disadvantaged.

## SCHOOL REPORTS

Year 12 will receive their mid-course report by Week 9 this term. It will be a full assessment of their learning, showing grades/marks and rank against learning outcomes.

Year 7-11 will receive a modified report by the end of the term or in the first week back of next term. These reports will be a simple one-page report with no marks or ranks. They will provide you with an assessment of how your child has approached their learning, both at school and at home.

A Parent Teacher meeting will be held in Week 2 next term - more information to follow. To be able to book a P/T meeting you will need to be on the Parent Portal (Millennium). If you have not yet had access to the portal, you will need to send an email to the school requesting access - you will then receive log in details specific to your family. All students against your family are linked on the one log in.

We look forward to the return of students. Please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Deputy Principal (Mr Stevens Year 7 & 10, Mr Sproule Year 8 & 11, Mr Colley Year 9 & 12) or myself if you have any concerns or queries.



Sue Xenos | Principal