



# What you need to know about our return to school in Term 4

We're excited about our return to face-to-face learning and welcoming students and staff back onsite where we know the best learning happens. This is a summary of what our parents and students can expect.



## Key dates for our staged return

While we know there is excitement about the return to school it's important that we stick to the staged return to give us time to be ready to welcome back students onsite. Students will return to face-to-face learning in the following order

- from 18 October – Year 12 (2021) only
- from 25 October – all remaining year groups.

All students are expected to return to school on the 25<sup>th</sup> October. Teachers will no longer be providing work for students at home, all classes will resume on site. Students with medical concerns around COVID should provide a medical certificate for any prolonged absence (more than 3 days).

## RETURN OF LAPTOPS

In order to be prepared to recommence on site learning, all loaned laptops will need to be returned. If possible, please follow the return schedule below- you will be provided with some hard copy work to complete for the last few days:

Year 12 - Anytime week 3 (if students wish to keep their device until after the HSC, please contact your DP).  
Year 7 & Year 8 - Wednesday 20 October  
Year 9 & Year 10 - Thursday 21 October  
Year 11 - Friday 22 October

If not able to be returned at these times, students must return on their first day back at school.



## Our school's COVID-safe operations

Our COVID-safe return to school plan is NSW Health approved and includes numerous effective practices to support the health and wellbeing of our students and staff. These practices include vaccinations, mask

wearing, reduced mingling of student groups and staff, ventilation in classrooms and continued good hygiene and cleaning.



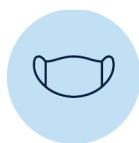
## Keeping student groups together

As we return to school students will be kept in their cohorts to minimise opportunities for transmission of COVID-19 and to enable effective contact tracing and containment. This means minimising interaction between students on school grounds and keeping cohorts together where possible.

To assist in managing a reduction of mingling the following will be in place from 25 October until further notice:

- **MORNING:** Students arrive by bus, car or walking in the morning as normal - the differing BUS times means student arrival will naturally be staggered. Those coming on foot or by car should arrive as close to the start of the day as possible.
- **ROLL CALL** – No mixed year roll call - period 1 becomes designated roll marking time - commence at 8.20
- **DURING THE DAY**
  - Toilets and playground areas will be designated to different year groups
    - Year 7 - MPC toilets + grassed area in front of senior area, seats along music rooms
    - Year 8 - MPC toilets + Canteen area
    - Year 9 - J Block toilets + area under shade sails and directly in front of J block/Science area
    - Year 10 - F Block toilets + area in front of F block (canteen side)
    - Year 11/12 - upstairs J Block and R Block + senior area + T area
    - Support students - can stay in their support playground OR access the mainstream playground/toilets with their year group
    - Wet Weather - students will access the rooms closest to their designated playground/toilet area, for example, Year 9 will access rooms in J/K block, Year 10 in F Block - under teacher supervision and direction.
    - Basketball COLA to be a shared active space at designated times:
      - Break 1: Year 7 - Monday & Wednesday, Year 9 - Tuesday & Thursday
      - Break 2: Year 8 - Monday & Wednesday, Year 10 - Tuesday & Thursday
      - Fridays: random draw for a different year group each break
  - Library – to be a shared space at designated times
    - Break 1: Year 7 - Tuesday & Friday, Year 9 - Monday & Thursday
    - Break 2: Year 8 - Tuesday & Friday, Year 10 - Monday & Thursday

- Wednesday Break 1: random draw year 9 or 10, Break 2: random draw Year 7 or 8
- Support students to access their year groups
- Year 11 - Senior study as required (limit numbers in room to 12 students)
- Canteen
  - **ORDERS ONLY** - if needing to pay via card, can pay when collecting order. Indicate on bag NAME and YEAR
  - Staggered release (10 minutes prior to break time) by year groups each break to reduce congestion at Canteen
  - Break 1: First access - Year 7 and 8, Support students
  - Break 2: First access Year 9 & 10 and Year 11 & 12
  - No serving of breakfast. Canteen will only be serving in breaks NOT before school
- **END OF DAY**
  - Walkers and those being picked up dismissed 15 minutes before the end of day and requested to leave the premises promptly. If you collect a student, please collect from the pool or Keel Street. This will assist in reducing crowds.



## Mask wearing for students and staff

Masks are required to be worn on the school site by staff indoors and outdoors and required for students indoors and outdoors unless eating or exercising.

Students who require an exemption should present their medical certificate to their DP on the first day they return to school. They will be issued an *Exemption Pass* which they should carry with them and show whenever requested.

The wearing of masks is a public health order (PHO), not just a school rule. Students who refuse to wear a mask when requested will be spoken to by the DP and parents contacted if needed. A student may be asked to go home if they refuse to comply with the PHO.

Students should bring their own mask with them each day (they need to have one if they are on a bus). If they forget or lose it, the office and DPs have back up supplies and they can be issued with another.

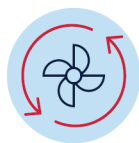


## Vaccinations

All staff required on site supporting the return to school will need to be fully vaccinated from 18 October. Then from 8 November all staff, contractors, volunteers and students on student placement on a school site will need to be fully vaccinated, including Outside of School Hours Care staff.

*Note: Students in this statement refers to student teachers (also known as pre-service teachers) on their*

practicum placement - **NOT** students at school.



## Ventilation

Having open or well-ventilated spaces reduces the risk of transmission of COVID-19 because infectious particles are more quickly diffused in the open air. The department will continue to work with NSW Health to provide us with advice and guidance on maintaining good ventilation in our school and we will make use of our outdoor spaces wherever practical.

THS has been inspected and all windows checked that they open and provide adequate ventilation.



## School activities

During Term 4 many school-based activities will remain on hold until NSW Health advise otherwise. This includes large celebrations like assemblies, presentation days and graduations, arts and sports events.

**Year 12 Virtual Graduation Wednesday 20 October** and will only involve Year 12 students. They will be in their English classes in different rooms. Speeches will all be conducted via Microsoft Teams and students will watch from their classrooms. Teachers will have the Awards to be handed out during the assembly. We understand that this is disappointing for families but there is little we can do. It may be possible to record the event and a list of all award recipients will be posted to Facebook by the following day.

All outgoing Year 12 students will need to be in uniform and present at school on Wednesday 20 October to participate in the virtual graduation.

Also, on hold until further notice is visits by allied health professionals (speech therapists, OT)

There will be no outside school excursions until further notice.

Year 9 & 10 sport will remain on site until further advice.



## Covid Communication

Parents and students will be notified if a decision is made to close the school due to a confirmed case of COVID-19. During this time we will continue to provide learning from home activities and we will let you know when we can return to face-to-face learning.

We will continue to communicate with you primarily via email, with notifications to check your inbox also on Facebook. All communication is also on the website. For those without Facebook, there is a section on the website that shows those posts. In the event we need to close the school, we will also send out an SMS. We know that SMS is not the most effective manner as many areas have a delay in receipt, so will always be backed up via email.



## Orientation and transition to school

Onsite orientations and transition programs are not currently allowed in person on school sites until we are advised differently by NSW Health. We'll share more information in the coming weeks about our school's virtual orientation and transition program.

Year 7 (2022) Orientation is being explored. We will work closely with the primary schools to collect and analyse information about students to support their transition. Individual parent meetings if required may be via Zoom. If we are unable to have a full parent information night, we will host a zoom event later this term.



## HSC student revision and support

Teachers of HSC subjects can be available for revision and support during their usual timetabled HSC classes. Schools will make arrangements to monitor these students while they are on the school site.

Students must stay within their study bubble groups and not mingle with other groups. Study bubbles are limited to a maximum of 5 students – the same 5 students are to stay together in their group while at school and can be in the school for up to 3 hours a day.

The program has commenced and will continue up until the 18 October when Year 12 (2021) students can return for full classes as per their timetable. Classes will only be held for those courses with a HSC examination. The classes are optional but strongly recommended.



## HSC exams

We are putting in place and preparing COVID-safe arrangements for exams to minimise mixing between students. These plans include appropriate spacing for students and that exams are conducted in well-ventilated rooms and spaces, mask wearing for students and staff onsite. We are also organising alternative venues in the event we need to relocate the exams.

Students must sign in for each exam and a setting plan will be established for each exam. Students should not move seats once allocated.

Each exam space will be sanitized after each exam, including chairs and tables being wiped down.

Students will be issued with a timetable which shows the alternate venues if required. We ask that Year 12 familiarise themselves with the location of other possible venues. If needed a SMS and email message will be sent to each family as well as a Facebook post. Students will be asked to provide their personal mobile numbers to school in the coming weeks, so they will also receive immediate notification of a change of venue.