



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back and greetings, my name is Paul Baxter. I look forward to returning to Tomaree High School as Principal in 2022. I have been the Principal at Irrawang High School for the last six years.

I sincerely hope that all of you had a restful break and are staying safe. The ongoing COVID pandemic has meant that we will be starting 2022 a little differently. It is this reason that I need to correspond with you all like this, and on this scale, so early in the year.

Tomaree High School will start 2022 with a layered approach to COVID-smart measures that have been developed in partnership with NSW Health to help to minimise transmissions at school. The health and well being of our students and staff remain our priority, and these measures are designed to help keep our school open and our students learning in the classroom.

I am confident that Tomaree High School is ready to support all our students and staff as we begin the academic year under these current circumstances.

Please, if at any time you have any concerns or questions about my information contact me at the school. I will be at school to talk or meet with you from Friday 28 February.

I am looking forward to 2022, supporting our students and working closely with families.

DO ALL STUDENTS NEED TO RETURN TO SCHOOL?

All students are to return to school. Years 7, 11, 12 Tuesday 1 February and Years 8, 9, 10 Wednesday 2 February.

However, if your child is COVID positive, or they are a close contact they will need to start the term remotely. If your child fits this category or you have any concerns please contact the school from 8am Friday 28 January by phone on 4981 1444.

Tomaree High School

PO Box 710, Nelson Bay 2315
169 Salamander Way, Salamander Bay NSW 2317

Phone: 02 4981 1444

Email: tomaree-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au



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RAPID ANTIGEN TESTING REQUIREMENTS

Test kits are available for parents to pick up from the school staff car park on:

Friday 28 January and Monday 31 January

7.00am – 9.00am and 4.00pm – 6.00pm each day

There will be a designated table per year group for collection.

If you have multiple children, you pull up at the oldest child's year group to collect.

Parents/carers do not need to leave their car and we do ask that you please wear a mask during this time when collecting the tests.

You can only collect for your own children. Parents and carers who cannot attend during these times are to call the front office on 4981 1444 to arrange a collection time between 8am-2:45pm.

Each student will receive 4 rapid tests each for their fortnight allocation. Students are recommended to use these twice per week. Each student in the support unit will receive 10 rapid tests and it is recommended to test daily.

STUDENTS SICK AT SCHOOL

School staff will NOT be administering the rapid antigen tests to students.

- Any student who is unwell and / or displays symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to go home and stay until they can complete a RAT or PCR test.
- If symptoms continue, they should stay at home and take another RAT in 24 hours or have a PCR test.
- If the second RAT or initial PCR test result is negative and they are displaying no symptoms OR they are diagnosed as another condition such as hay fever, the student or staff member can return to school.

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What happens when a student tests positive for COVID-19?

If a student receives a positive RAT result, they need to:

- record the positive RAT result through the Service NSW website or Service NSW app
- notify the school of the positive RAT or PCR result as soon as possible
- follow NSW Health advice to isolate for 7 days. Negative results do not need to be reported to Service NSW or to the school.

I will inform the school community when there is a positive case in our school and advise families on public health advice, including monitoring for symptoms.

ALLERGIES

Just as last year, if your child is displaying any cold or flu like symptoms they need to go home immediately.

I understand that there are students who manage allergies, and so I am asking that all students in this situation have a doctor's certificate or note on their person to present to staff if asked. Otherwise, if they are displaying any cold or flu like symptoms they must go home from school. I know this did cause some concern last year, so please contact me prior to the first day of school if you require any clarification or support. Thank you for your cooperation on this point and please understand this is a DoE mandate.

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UPDATED MASKS REQUIREMENTS

Students and staff must wear masks in all indoor settings at school. Masks are highly recommended for outside settings. The DoE has also recommended that students and staff at school no longer wear cloth masks, or masks with inbuilt vents.

Along with the RAT kits we have also been supplied with masks for all students and staff that meet this new requirement, as needed. You can get masks for your children when you pick up the test kits, if you wish.

Please remind your children to wear masks if they are using public transport to come to school. The transport police were checking school travel at the end of last year and were warning of fines if students were not complying with the mandate.

CANTEEN USE

Under our current restrictions we are encouraging all students to use Flexischools to pre order their food. The canteen lines can be congested, and we will be asking students to wear masks while lining up and collecting their food as physical distancing is not always possible.

WEDNESDAY SPORT

Wednesday sport will revert to our cohort model and only take place in and around the school. This may change as the term progresses, but we will begin with this model. Please understand that sport is mandatory, and I cannot sign students out of school during sport time unless it is a valid reason for attending appointments. There may be instances where I am unable to sign students out of sport.

Our Swimming Carnival, at this stage, will be running with a COVID safe plan in place. I will have further information on this event in the coming week.

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CAMPS AND EXCURSIONS TERM 1

Schools have been asked to restrict all non-essential activities such as camps and excursions for the first four weeks of the school year. We will have further information on which events may be put on hold and this will be reviewed and communicated in the coming week.

VENTILATION

The department's ventilation recommendations have been informed by NSW Health advice, expert advice from the Doherty Institute and the World Health Organisation. This advice tells us that maximising natural ventilation in our learning spaces is the key to keeping people safe and this can be best achieved by opening doors and windows. Staff at Tomaree High School will be directed to keep windows and doors open, as appropriate, to support these findings.

I apologise again for the length of my letter, however, I felt it important to contextualise the directions with our school with as much detail as possible.

Finally, thank you for your support and don't hesitate to contact me at the school if you have any concerns. All the best for the start of the academic year.

Take care

Paul Baxter | Principal

27 January 2022

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