



## **Update for Start of Term 2 - 29/4/20**

Dear parents and carers

A warm welcome back to school and learning for students and parents alike. I trust that in these challenging and rapidly changing times, our students and families did find some joy and relaxation over the break, and everyone has been able to stay healthy and safe.

In weeks 1 and 2 of this term, i.e. from today until Friday, 8/5/20, parents and carers are being asked by the NSW Government and Department of Education to keep students learning from home each school day if possible, supporting the community response to COVID-19. The school's doors will remain open for those students whose parents are in the essential services or who are vulnerable. After the break, the return to learning for students began here today with 50 students at school. Students attending school in weeks 1 and 2 will be supervised and completing the same work being completed by students at home.

### **A Managed Return to School from Week 3**

During the holidays, the Premier, Ms Gladys Berejiklian, and the Secretary of the Department of Education, Mr Mark Scott, announced a managed return to school for students in NSW public schools this term. In week 3, from Monday, 11/5/20, Phase 1 of this managed return is to begin in all public schools. In this phase, the guidelines for the managed return state that students are to be at school for at least one day per week. More information can be found at:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families/managed-return-to-school-guide-for-families>

We are currently planning how this will be timetabled and organised at this school, and will be communicating this to you as soon as possible.

A key focus of our plan is to have our HSC students here as often as possible. We must factor in that the HSC is going ahead in 2020, and so maximising students' time at school with their teachers will be very important to the learning and wellbeing of our HSC cohort. We need also to consider that non-Department of Education schools



are not bound by the same processes and guidelines for returning their HSC students to school. It is therefore important, I believe, that our own students are on a 'level playing field', so to speak, with students in any other high school or school system. To this point, I also note that Mr Scott has told NSW teachers and principals that "every" public high school principal he has spoken with about this managed return certainly intends to have HSC students back at school more than one day per week.

From week 3, students in 7-10 can expect to be back 1 day per week, with each Year group coming on a designated day. We are planning for these students to have class time with as many of their regular teachers as possible on their Year's designated day at school. It is very important that students are still learning from home for the rest of the week wherever possible. Please continue to support your child in their learning at home. And please follow the health advice and keep your child at home if they are unwell.

The school canteen will be re-opening from week 3, as the managed return to school begins.

In developing our plan, we are being guided by current health advice within the practical limitations of a school environment. During the holidays, the Prime Minister, Mr Scott Morrison, stated that the current health advice in relation to schools is that the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) does not believe that "the 'venue density rule' of no more than one person per four square metres is appropriate or practical in classrooms or corridors, nor maintaining 1.5 metres between students during classroom activities." AHPPC has noted that there is very limited evidence of transmission between children in the school environment. In Australia, 2.4 per cent of confirmed cases have been in children aged between 5 and 18 years of age (as at 6am, 22 April 2020). The National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) reported on 26/4/20 that in NSW from March to Mid-April:

- 18 individuals (9 students and 9 staff) from 15 schools were confirmed as COVID-19 cases
- 735 students and 128 staff were close contacts of these initial 18 cases
- No teacher or staff member contracted COVID-19 from any of the initial school cases.
- One child from a primary school and one child from a high school may have

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contracted COVID-19 from the initial cases at their schools.

AHPPC believes that adults in the school environment should practice room density measures (such as in staff rooms) given the greater risk of transmission between adults.

Our planning is being informed by such information and advice.

### **HSC Update**

The HSC is going ahead in 2020. NESA is considering how the disruptions and disadvantages all HSC students are experiencing in 2020 can be addressed through changes to examinations, assessment requirements and moderation processes for 2020 results. The latter is apparently being considered by experts in this area at the moment, and more information will be announced as their work advances. NESA and the Department of Education are also entering discussions with UAC and universities regarding the ATAR and university entrance for this year's HSC students. Again, more information will follow as these talks progress.

In relation to practical examinations, over the holidays NESA announced the following:

The due dates have been extended and teachers will provide the final mark for the following components of the 2020 HSC practical exams:

- Design and Technology: Major Design Project (Product)
- Industrial Technology: Major Project (Product)
- Textiles and Design: Major Textiles Project (Product)
- Visual Arts: Body of Work.

The following practical examinations will be externally marked and the due dates are unchanged.

- Dance Major Study – Dance and Technology Option 1: Choreographing the Virtual

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Body

- Drama Individual Projects
- English Extension 2 Major Works
- Music submitted works|
- Society and Culture Personal Interest Projects

More information can be found at:

<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/about/news/novel-coronavirus/practical-examinations>

Head Teachers have been working with course teachers to make required adjustments to our HSC Assessment Schedule, which would otherwise have been provided to students before the end of term one. This document, and the HSC assessment calendar, will soon be provided to students. Presently, we are making adjustments needed to allow for the plan to return students to school from week 3.

### **Support for students at home**

I encourage you to access the [Learning from Home](https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-from-home/advice-to-parents-and-carers) resource which provides practical advice to parents and carers on how to best create and support a productive learning environment in the home. <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-from-home/advice-to-parents-and-carers>

Best wishes

Dr Mark Howie  
Principal

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