

Dear Parents and Students,

I hope you had a welcome change of pace over the holiday break and some time together without having to balance learning from home with other demands. The following information is adapted from Dept of Education advice.

Term 4 returns with learning from home on Tuesday 5 October

As our school is in an LGA that is still under stay-at-home rules we will continue to learn from home for the start of Term 4 using our compressed timetable with one hour lessons between 9am and 2pm. It is important that you continue to keep your children home if you are able to. While we are planning for our return to face-to-face learning and our teachers are completing their COVID-19 vaccinations there will only be minimal supervision for students on site and any students on site will be provided with the same work as they would be completing at home.

I know we are all excited about the coming freedoms available to those who are fully vaccinated in NSW but I ask every family to hold on just a few weeks more to give us the time we need to complete our planning for your child's safe return.

Return to school roadmap for Term 4

In Term 4, where stay-at-home rules are still in place but high community vaccination and low transmission conditions are met, students will return to school in a staggered approach for prioritised cohorts, with no mingling or on-site activities.

In the majority of schools students will return to face-to-face learning with NSW Health-approved COVID-safe Level 3 plus settings on school sites in the following order as announced by the Premier on 30 September:

- From 18 October 2021: Preschool, Kindergarten and Year 1
- From 25 October 2021: Years 2, 6 and 11
- From 1 November 2021: Years 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

The return to school roadmap is subject to change depending on new information expected through the Public Health Order and additional

advice from NSW Health. You can stay up to date with the most recent advice on our [Advice for families page](#).

For those families who have siblings across year groups I know it will be more difficult to keep some at home while others are back on site. But to re-iterate the message above – we need this time to prepare our school and operations for having all our students back so it's essential that you only send your children to school in line with our set plan.

HSC

From the beginning of Term 4, teachers will be available to support students online during timetabled lesson times. This is on an opt-in basis for students. Year 12/HSC students can continue to access school in a limited way for essential curriculum and wellbeing. There is not a formal program in place for this but teachers may organise small group sessions on site if necessary. Year 12 students should stay in contact with their teachers via class and year group Google Classrooms for assistance in studying and for information about opportunities for after 18 October.

HSC exams will proceed for all students from 9 November 2021 in a COVID-safe way, in line with NSW Health advice.

Vaccinations for students aged 12 years and over

Young people aged 12 years and over are now also eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. You can [book in your children for Pfizer now](#), or Moderna where indicated there is availability.

Vaccination appointments are available at more than 3,000 locations across NSW, including GPs and pharmacies. More appointments will become available as supply increases, so keep checking for new appointments in coming weeks.

Learning from Home

The [Learning From Home page](#) has a wide range of curriculum-based activities to further support your child's learning, if needed.

Thank you again for your understanding and support during what is going to be both an exciting, but also an anxious time over the coming term.

Please take some time to check out our [wellbeing resources for students and families](#). You'll find useful tools for mental health and Term 4 preparation. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can do anything to help you and your children to prepare for the return to face-to-face learning or if you have any concerns about the return to school.

We are spending the first week back at school finalising our COVID-safe plans for a return to face-to-face learning and I hope to share these plans with you in the coming weeks.

Regards,

David Arblaster
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