Dear Parents and Students,

The NSW Department of Education (DoE) has been the victim of a cyber attack and most systems have been offline since Wednesday afternoon. Most staff, myself included, have little or no access to emails. I apologise for not being able to send a message to you via our usual email system. Our understanding is that the DoE systems are expected to be progressively coming back on line and are expected to be fully functional next week.

As previously advised and in line with the announcement from the NSW Premier and advice from NSW Health, Turramurra High School will be implementing Learning from Home from Tuesday 13 July until Friday 16 July 2021.

The DoE website has a lot of information for families which can be accessed via the following link. Please check this site regularly for updates:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families>

Our school will remain open for those students and families who need it, although parents are urged to keep their children at home if at all possible. There will only be minimum supervision provided at school.

Staff are currently preparing for the delivery of online learning next week. Teachers will be using Google Classroom as the main platform for lesson delivery and staff-student communication. There will be some use of Zoom as well. We will send a message out on Monday explaining the processes for engaging with learning online. We will be following a modified timetable with shortened lesson lengths and extra breaks. The timing of lessons has been updated in Sentral and students are encouraged to check via the Sentral portal and follow their timetabled lessons.

All staff and students who are at school will be required to wear masks unless they have an exemption supported by documentation. Students are also required to wear masks on public transport. It is essential that these requirements are observed by all students and members of staff and they will be enforced. It is very likely that when we do return to school in full that the mask protocols will continue to be in place. Please ensure that students come to school with a mask every day.

The DoE is sending supplies of sanitiser and cleaning products to the school. Enhanced procedures regarding cleaning and use of hand sanitiser will be in place when students return to face to face learning.

Year 12 students are fast approaching the business end of their courses. We are revising our plans for the Trial HSC examinations and it is anticipated that we will delay their commencement by approximately 2 weeks. Information on this will be communicated as soon as plans have been finalised.

In terms of Year 12 practical subjects with major works and performances, we are looking at possibilities for student access to workshops and teachers. Teachers will be in contact with their classes about this.

In my previous email I mentioned some cancelled events and activities. Unfortunately it is anticipated that there will be further restrictions on excursions, incursions and camps this term.

Non-essential visitors are not allowed on site. This will mean that any meetings between parents and school staff will need to be online, at least in the initial stage.

I am very aware of the concerns we are all feeling about the current situation but I would like to reassure you that, in terms of educational delivery, we have managed this process before. This term will certainly bring challenges but I am confident we can work through them together as a community, ensuring our students’ needs remain our primary focus.

Please keep safe, stay home and check the communication checkpoints for further advice and information.

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