

From the Principal's Desk - 22 May 2020

Return to Full-Time Face-to-Face Learning

Dear Parents and Carers,

It will be an absolute delight to welcome students in the High School, Intensive English Centre and Support Faculty back on campus, to engage in full-time face-to-face learning from Monday 25 May.

My deepest thanks to our parents and carers for your commitment, care and understanding that you have brought to our community during this crisis. Thank you for your understanding when sometimes there were no answers to give; thank you for your goodwill as we were all learning a new world and thank you for interpreting and responding to our communications throughout the last months to help through these 'unprecedented', 'never before seen' times.

For this I, along with you, I'm extremely grateful.

As we transition back to school, the Department of Education has provided a guide to parents and carers (please refer to the attachment: *A guide to NSW school students returning to face-to-face learning for parents and carers*) relating to school operations. These are a few points to note.

School Attendance

ALL students should be at school unless:

- They have a **medical certificate** which states that they are unable to return to school due to an ongoing medical condition.
- They are currently **unwell**.

Please Note: Parents **must not** send their children to school if they are feeling unwell. If your child is unwell during the school day, they will not be able to remain in the clinic. Parents will be expected to collect their children who are unwell from school.

School Activities

Teachers will continue to follow the same school curriculum with the exception of some activities that can't go ahead for now.

What students can do?

- Engage in **NON-CONTACT** sporting activities. However, handball will be allowed during break times.
- Year 11 and 12 students may attend classes/activities relating to subjects available on other campuses.
- VET work placement for Year 12 students is able to proceed from 1 June 2020. Year 10 and 11 work-placement is able to proceed from Term 3 2020.
- School based apprenticeships and traineeships can recommence once the relevant workplaces are back in operation.
- Trade Training Centres can operate on school sites.
- While students will be able to use the school library during lesson time, it will be closed during recess and lunch over the next week as we develop our enhanced cleaning procedures.

What students can't do?

- School assemblies (unless for critical information)
- School incursions and excursions including camps
- Work experience
- Inter-school activities (debating, inter-school sport)
- In-school activities requiring parent or other volunteers
- Students cannot attend TAFE for study but may continue to learn online

School Grounds

- There should be no visitors to school unless essential. need to come into school for appointments it is essential that you to adhere to social distancing requirements, enhanced cleaning of used areas and minimise contact with the broader school population.
- Community use of our school facilities will only recommence for uses that are necessary for continuation of education and with principal's approval.

Social Distancing and Hygiene Measures

School students **DO NOT** need to follow physical distancing guidelines, but should follow good hygiene practices including:

- Engage in **regular hand washing**, especially before eating.
- Coughing or sneezing into your elbow, or a tissue which should be discarded immediately.
- Use **hand sanitising** facilities provided in the classroom and other health items in a responsible manner – ideal to bring your **own** hand sanitiser.
- Assist in keeping **classroom desks** and **school equipment clean**, as directed by the teacher.
- **Avoid share drinks or food** – school bubblers will **NOT** be operational. Water bottles can be refilled at **WATER FOUNTAINS** located in A Block and E Block.
- Students are to come **directly to school** each morning, and after school go directly home – no going via the local shops or the park.

Please Note: All school activities and operations will be in line with Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) and NSW Health guidelines, as applicable.

Canteen Operations

The school canteen will be **OPEN**, but students will need to follow teacher's instructions and line markings on the floor in the canteen area.

Transport Arrangements

- School buses will be running at **normal times**, before and after school. Please refer to the attached document - **COVID Safe Transport Plan - Supporting students returning to school** for further details.

In looking back, the past four weeks have been an interesting experience and has provided interesting insights. We have gone from being unsure and confused about the educational environment that COVID19 was presenting to us, to being very confident and proud of our well-

structured and successful online teaching and face-to-face program – a program that allowed us to continue to deliver high quality education and continuity of learning.

It is now encouraging to see that COVID-19 infections remain low across NSW and Australia and our hope is that as this continues, we will see the lifting of some of the restrictions to allow us to restart extra-curricular activities, whole school assemblies and possibly even overnight camps in the future. These are things that add fun to and enhance learning, and allow students to pursue their passions and dreams. The teachers who work in these areas cannot wait to get started.

I would like once again to thank our teachers for their tireless efforts in their lesson preparation and in ensuring that our students had the best online learning experience that we could offer. I would also thank again our parents for your great support for what we have done, and of course our students for their engagement in learning from home and the support they have given their teachers.

We will continue to update parents through email, our Facebook page and the School Stream app. I would particularly like to point you to the YouTube clip on our Facebook page by Miller staff welcoming students back to school.

The last few months have been challenging, but achievable. If should you have any questions about full-time face-to-face learning please contact the High School – p 02 96078669 (email: miller-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au) or Miller Intensive English Centre – p 02 96072751 (email: miller-i.school@det.nsw.edu.au).

The website <https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families> also has been updated and may have information of interest to families.

Regards,
Dr Ken Edge
(Principal)