

From the Principal's Desk – Term 3 Week 10 2021

Dear parents/carers,

As we approach the end of Term 3, I am certain like me, you hope that as we continue to negotiate the impact of the virus and the uncertainty it brings that students will be able to return to school as scheduled by the NSW Department of Education. Yes, it has been an interesting and challenging term and given current health advice, I would like to provide an update on Term 4 learning for students.

Year 12 – 2021 HSC

The Department of Education has advised Principals that the last official day for Year 12 attendance will be Friday 17 September. While official attendance at school will not be required or recorded for students from the start of Term 4, it is important that we continue to provide strong support in the lead - up to the HSC examinations.

Term 4 Weeks 1-3

- Students will continue on-line learning.
- Classroom teachers will post on Google Classroom a revised lesson program to support curriculum revision and examination preparation.
- New content will **NOT** be introduced.
- The expectation is that all students will continue to attend their scheduled classes.

Term 4 Weeks 4-5

- Level 3 plus restrictions allowing full-time access to school and teachers. **NO** online learning.
- Curriculum revision and examination preparation continues.
- HSC Examinations commence Tuesday 9 November, finishing Friday 3 December under COVID-19 safe HSC written examination protocols.

Note: NESA has also advised that students **DO NOT** have to sit HSC Minimum Standard online tests for the rest of 2021.

Year 11 – 2022 HSC

As students and families would be aware, the Preliminary Course is completed at the end of Term 3 in the year prior to the HSC examinations. The following procedures support the commencement of the HSC course in Term 4 2021.

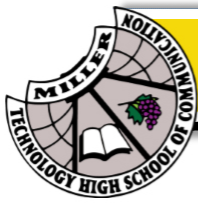
Term 4 Weeks 1-4

- Students will continue on-line learning.
- Following normal school timetable. No catch-up periods, with 9 periods per cycle.
- To meet HSC course requirements, students need to attend all on-line scheduled classes.

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Term 4 Week 5

- Level 3 plus restrictions allowing full-time access to school and teachers. **NO** online learning.

Patterns of Study

Year 11 students are required to study a minimum of 12 units to meet Preliminary course requirements. In the HSC course students can choose to study a minimum of 10 units. The following procedures support a student requesting a change in their pattern of study:

Term 4 Week 2

- Students, after discussion with their parents/carers complete the on-line request form.
- Telephone interviews conducted with parents/carers to confirm pattern of study changes.
- Year 11 Deputy Principal will advise students when the process is complete. Until such advice is received, students **MUST** continue to attend all scheduled classes, whether online or face-to-face.

Years 7, 8, 9 and 10

Term 4 Weeks 1-5

- Students will continue on-line learning.

Term 4 Week 6

- Level 3 plus restrictions allowing full-time access to school and teachers. No online learning.

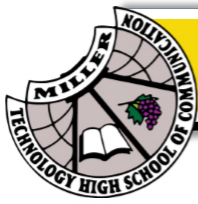
Reporting to Parents in Semester 2

The Department of Education has advised Principals that schools will have flexibility in reporting to parents/carers in Semester 2. Information about our revised Semester 2 reports will be provided, mid Term 4.

SASS Recognition Week

Week 9 was a time to acknowledge the essential work of our School Administrative and Support Staff. Our SAS staff are the first point of school contact for new students, provide support in areas of finance, customer service, administration, grounds and maintenance, student welfare, and learning support. They are indispensable in creating a school environment that helps our students feel known, valued, and cared for.

Again, a big thank you to all our SAS staff for the significant role you play in preparing Miller young people for rewarding lives - especially in these changing and challenging times.



RU OK Day

Working through a COVID - 19 lockdown was not something we imagined would happen again at the beginning of the school year. The pandemic has brought many changes for children, young people, and families all around Australia. There are so many questions about the impacts and how we can best support those in our care.

R U OK? Day was held on Thursday 9 September 2021. It's a National Day of Action when we remind Australians that every day is the day to ask, "Are you OK?" if someone in your world is struggling with life's ups and downs.

It's not always easy to keep the conversation going when someone says they are not OK, but it could change a life. By starting a conversation and commenting on the changes you have noticed, you could help a family member, friend, or workmate open-up. If you are not in the right headspace or you do not think you are the right person to have the conversation, try to think of someone else in their support network who could talk to them.

If they say they are not OK, you can follow the conversation steps on the R U OK webpage to show them they are supported and help them find strategies to better manage. If they are OK, that person will know you are someone who cares enough to ask.

PARENTLINE NSW

As we approach the end of the term it is a credit to the student's that they have engaged so positively in their learning from home each day. In supporting families, **PARENTLINE NSW** can help with any concerns about remote learning, setting limits, managing anxiety, child development etc from age 0-18.

The **PARENTLINE** is a free service available 9am - 9pm weekdays and 4pm - 9pm weekends and is staffed by trained counsellors and psychologists.

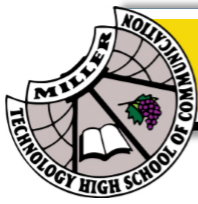
Call **1300 1300 52** or <https://www.parentline.org.au/how-we-help/>

Parenting from Culturally Diverse Backgrounds - Tips and Support

<https://www.parentline.org.au/parenting-in-australia-for-parents-from-culturally-diverse-backgrounds/>

New School Parent Portal

Communication between school and home is vital in helping students to learn and succeed, especially given the current learning from home situation. In fostering this communication, all our parents/cares are now able to access the school's Parent Portal. The Portal allows you to view important information about school operations and your child/children's academic progress.



MILLER TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL

PER CULTURAM—Promoting Growth and Development

As we progress this initiative, I am confident that the Parent Portal will become more and more significant in our, and in your involvement in your child/children's education at Miller. I look forward to hearing from you about your experiences. Any feedback will be gratefully received, with a view to adding further functionality and improvement.

Ten weeks is a very long term to be learning from home for teachers, students, and families. We have an extremely dedicated group of teachers and support staff, and they are continually seeking to give the best possible learning experience to each young person in our care. Your thanks and acknowledgement of their hard work is highly valued.

I always look forward to this time of year because it brings us to the Spring season. It is a time when the cold and dark dwindle. It is a time the light begins to shine more brightly and plants and flowers with rain, begin to bloom.

At this time of the year, everything renews. I encourage all our families over the Spring holiday break to take the opportunity to stop, reflect and take time to recharge so that we can begin Term 4 (on-line classes resume Tuesday 5 October, 2021) with new energy and endeavour.

If you have any immediate needs, please do not hesitate to contact the main High School office (Office Hours 8.30am-3.00pm).

Dr Ken Edge
(Principal)

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