



From the Principal's Desk – Term 3 Week 4 2021

Learning from Home Update

Dear Parents/carers,

Navigating the challenges of the current COVID-19 situation is 'like driving a car while you are still building it, and I trust you and your children are progressing well in their learning from home endeavours. Managing your own and your children's responsibilities of working and learning from home can also be challenging.

However, as we all realise, you are not alone. While the future is unforeseeable, I would like to update our Learning from Home arrangements and recent NSW Department of Education and NESA announcements.

Learning from Home

- Learning from home continues for Year 7 to Year 11 students until Monday, 30 August 2021. This includes students in the Intensive English Centre (IEC).
- Learning from home continues for Year 12 students. However, in line with current advice, Year 12 will be returning to school from Monday, 16 August 2021.
- Ms Azzi (Relieving Head Teacher Support) will advise Support Unit families of any changes to current Learning from Home arrangements for students.
- **Catch-up periods commence this week (Week 4)**. It is important that all students download their updated timetables, with catch-up periods clearly identified for each class.

Years 11-12

- Year 12 - Normal timetable. No reduction in period allocations.
- Year 11 - Reduction of 2 periods per cycle, per subject studied.
- Catch-up periods **DO NOT** apply to Stage 6 EVET courses.

Years 7-10

- Core subjects, English, Science, History/Geography, Mathematics, PD/H/PE - Reduction of 2 periods per cycle.
- Electives Year 9/10 - Reduction of 1 period per cycle.
- Year 7/8 Music, Visual Arts, Technology Mandatory, LOTE (Year 8) - Reduction of 1 period per cycle.
- Sport – No change.
- Year Advisor periods - No Change.

Please Note: Classroom teachers will **NOT** be available for online learning during catch-up periods.

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What should students be doing during their catch-up periods?

- Tracking their learning to make sure they are up to date
- Finish class activities
- Complete all exit tickets or evidence of work as required
- Complete homework tasks
- Work on assessment tasks/assignments
- Make study notes and summaries of lessons
- Check teacher feedback
- Complete Wordflyers activities (Years 7/8)
- Complete Reading Eggs activities (IEC students)
- Complete Mathletics activities (IEC students)
- Access Edrolo (Year 11)
- Practice past exam papers (Year 11)
- Onguard - TAS Safety Program Activities
- ClickView video Activities - TAS
- Kahoot - TAS

- Complete Year Advisor/wellbeing activities.

NESA Updates

NESA has recently announced additional changes to the 2021 HSC timetable. These changes are designed to give students more certainty in the lead up to their exams.

HSC Written Exams

- Written exams have been rescheduled to run from **19 October to 12 November. HSC results will be released on 17 December.**

HSC Projects, Body of Works, and Performances

As previously indicated, with Department of Education Level 4 operational guidelines, onsite support for Music, Visual Arts, and Industrial Technology – Timber students has not been possible.

To address student disadvantage in the upcoming HSC oral language exams, performance exams, and major work submissions, NESA has to implement a new [COVID Special Consideration Program](#). This will mean that students will not have to sit their external HSC oral or performance exam or submit their major project or work for marking by HSC markers.

Instead, students will receive a final mark in the affected component based on a mark provided by their teacher. This is because teachers are best placed to understand how much each student has been affected and give the students the most appropriate mark.

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Students and their families can find more information and updates to [performance exams](#), [safety rules](#) and [HSC exams, and major works](#) on the NESA website. NESA will also be sending this information to all HSC students directly.

If you have any questions, please visit [NESA COVID advice](#) or email covid19support@nesa.nsw.edu.au

Reminder – 2021/2022 Mandatory VET Work Placement

Students undertaking [VET courses](#) in 2021 will remain eligible for the Preliminary or HSC credit units if unable to complete work placement due to the direct impact of COVID-19.

Students commencing a VET course in 2021 (and continuing the course in 2022) with a mandatory work placement requirement will meet the course requirement if they complete 35 hours of work placement. This is a reduced requirement for most courses. It is anticipated that the placement can be completed later in 2021 or 2022.

HSC Trial Examination Update

With learning from home and being separated from friends, I know that our Year12 students have been asking for more information about their Trial HSC Examinations, the HSC Examinations and assessment.

With Year 12 students returning to school from Monday 16 August 2021 and Trial HSC an opportunity to refine those pre-HSC examination skills, our Trial HSC has been rescheduled from Monday 16 August to Friday 27 August 2021 (Weeks 6/7). Please note:

- With rescheduling, teachers may need to change the nature and structure of an examination, including format, duration, and outcomes assessed. In line with NESA guidelines, students will be advised of these changes.
- To build confidence and support students to be well prepared to achieve the best possible outcomes, Week 4 and Week 5 (Monday 2 August to Friday 13 August) have been designated as a catch-up/revision period.
- With the health and safety of both staff, students and families of paramount importance, the Trial HSC examinations will be conducted under conditions advised by NSW Health. This may include rapid antigen testing for students.
- Students should continue to fully engage with online learning to ensure they develop and complete all HSC related content and skills. Importantly, remember that the HSC Trial is not the be-all and end-all and that no examination is more important than student wellbeing.

With the uncertainty in this COVID world, students and parents/carers will be informed of any changes to the current HSC Trial examination organisation.

General Advice on School Assessment - Year 7-11

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Assessment tasks scheduled in Term 3 will go ahead as planned (refer to Year 7-11 Assessment Procedures and Policy).

- Following NESA guidelines, students will be provided with adequate written notice of any changes in assessment tasks or schedules.
- Year 11 students will be advised of any changes to the nature and structure of their end of course examinations (currently scheduled - Monday 30 August 2021 to Friday 10 September 2021).

Updated advice for families

Parents and carers in Greater Sydney must keep children – across the primary and secondary school – at home unless they need to be at school. Schools (including outside of school hours care) are open for any child that needs it.

Early childhood education and care services – including family day care residences and venues – in Greater Sydney may continue to operate.

Parents and carers in the Blacktown, Campbelltown, Canterbury-Bankstown, Cumberland, Fairfield, Georges River, Liverpool, and Parramatta LGAs are strongly encouraged to keep their children at home to limit movement in the community.

Free parent and carer mental health sessions

Headspace National runs several free parent and carer mental health sessions to support young people impacted by COVID-19. View the sessions and register on the [Headspace website](#).

With the COVID-19 situation continuing to unfold in Greater Sydney over the past few weeks, staff have contacted many families to provide support. We received many complimentary messages regarding provision for learning from home, our support for vulnerable children, and our caring and helpful approach during these many conversations.

Our support has gone over and above expectations, and I would like to share part of one conversation.

Thank you so much for your call this morning. I am so very thankful for all of the school communications.

I appreciate the time and patience in explaining the current situation and putting my children's worries to rest. I truly deeply appreciate all your staff's support through these unprecedented times.

I will stay in touch. Thank you for everything—my best wishes to everyone. Stay well and keep safe.

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MILLER TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL

PER CULTURAM—Promoting Growth and Development

Miller staff are incredibly proud to be able to support our families through this unprecedented time. With many people wanting to help, and there are numerous ways to do so. Words of encouragement mean a lot to anyone feeling stressed or unsure.

If you have any queries or need support, please do not hesitate to contact the High School's main office (Office Hours 8.30 am-3.00 pm).

- We are also contactable through our email - miller-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au or Miller IEC at miller-i.school@det.nsw.edu.au.

Please continue to check the various online communications, including the High School (<https://miller-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/>) and Intensive English Centre (<https://milleriec.schools.nsw.gov.au/>) websites, MTHS and IEC Facebook pages and School Stream as there will be constant updates.

I appreciate your understanding, and with the safety and wellbeing of all, our top priority continues following social distancing and other recommended safe health behaviours.

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