

From the Principal's Desk – Term 3 Week 6 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Learning from home will be continuing over the following weeks, with many examples of outstanding teaching and inspired learning happening in our classrooms that I would like to share. I have also provided updates relating to our assessment processes and support that we can provide to our families.

Focus on Ability Short Film – My disability is NOT my Limitation

Focus on Ability (FOA) is a NOVA Employment initiative designed to encourage filmmakers to focus on the Ability of People with Disability.

In this year's FOA Festival, 264 finalists from 22 countries, with Miller Support Unit students a school entry finalist with their film – '*My disability is NOT my Limitation*'. I was motivated and inspired by every minute in viewing our student's entry and the other finalist films.

It has been a rollercoaster ride during the lock-down that caused a few obstacles with our filming. I want to acknowledge all of the students involved for their courage in sharing their journeys and the passion of the Support Unit staff, especially Mr Kallon and Ms Persenitis, for promoting high-quality educational outcomes for our students.

Check out our student's fantastic entry and vote using the following link (voting closes on 25 August 2021).

[My disability is NOT my Limitation: Focus On Ability: Focus on Ability Film Festival](#)

Week 7 - Book Week is Coming up

The English Faculty will be celebrating Book Week through our online learning platforms, Google Classroom and Zoom. This year's theme is "Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds", with the English teachers dressing up as their favourite characters from their dearest books during class. Online lessons for Years 7-10 will focus on designing book covers and creative writing activities.

With their passion for reading, Mr Mai and his English faculty believe that books are an essential part of our lives. The words of the famous modern-day author Neil Gaiman certainly sums up these thoughts, "*fairy tales are more than true: not because they tell us that dragons exist, but because they tell us that dragons can be beaten.*"

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YouTube Clips

Each week teachers are providing examples of online inspirational teaching and learning in their spaces. These visuals are then composed into a YouTube clip with links posted on our media sites, including Facebook as a lovely expression of connection, learning and community.

Well done Mr Patana, and I encourage students and their families to take some time to view these so beautifully composed and powerful celebrations of learning from home.

MTHS Refugee Support Team – Online Zoom parent meeting

These sessions aim to provide our parents with an opportunity to check-in and communicate any important information.

We have groups running on Monday and Wednesday afternoons at 2:30 pm – so parents, carers can use their children's laptops. Our School Learning Support Officers are always available to provide translation and further support.

This week a Health Promotion Worker from South Western Sydney Local Health District was a guest speaker. There were many questions about COVID-19 health impacts and how to access vaccinations for themselves and their children. The upcoming HSC examinations was a popular topic of discussion.

Feedback from parents indicated that the meetings were informative and were very appreciative of the school's efforts.

Please join us next week to share your experiences and to ask support questions.

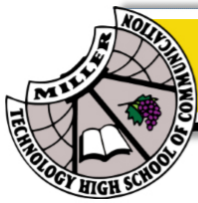
National Science Week

National Science Week was held between 14 - 22 August and is Australia's annual celebration of science and technology. It features more than 1000 events around Australia, including those delivered by universities, schools, research institutions, libraries, museums and science centres.

With online learning the new normal, our science teachers and students celebrated Science Week from the safety of their homes. Ms Alessi's class has been cooking and creating, and making animals out of fruits and vegetables.

Ms Talfah showed students how to test soil quality for seed planting, similar to what farmers would do to ensure the healthy growth of crops. They also blended food scraps into plant food to support optimal growth, such as eggshells and fruit peels.

Mr Caddy tested the pH (a measure of acidity) for a range of fruit juices. Mr Truong showed students how to curve a ball that a soccer or rugby player could apply. Mr Darmanin's Year 8



class formed atoms using household items, with his Year 7 class creating cells using food or household items.

All students and staff had an enjoyable time further developing their understanding of essential science concepts across the major science disciplines.

Student Voice

The Advocate for Children and Young People (ACYP) has been working to provide the NSW Government with more information about how young people feel about the current COVID-19 outbreak, focusing on students in the LGAs across Sydney currently facing more significant restrictions.

Even in lock-down, student's voice is an essential part of school decision-making with students from the Student Representative Council (SRC) involved this week in a Zoom discussion/survey meeting with ACYP. The topics of discussions included challenges of online learning and restrictions; where students gained information about the restrictions; if they felt the restrictions were too harsh or not; what the government could do to ease the impacts of the challenges, and how the restrictions impacted daily life.

Ms Vukic (SRC co-ordinator) said that the students were fantastic school ambassadors and conducted themselves respectfully and professionally maturely.

All students who took up the challenge should be very proud of their efforts.

End of Course Assessments - Year 11

As previously indicated, Year 11 end of course examinations has been cancelled with an alternate assessment task for each subject to be submitted during Week 9 and Week 10.

Consistent with NESA procedures, a revised assessment schedule and task completion guidelines were distributed to students during their year meeting on Thursday (19 August 2021). Year 11 students need to complete these alternate assessment tasks as the marks will contribute to the Year 11 Record of School Achievement (RoSA) grading process.

Year 7-10 Assessment

Year 7-10 assessment tasks scheduled in Term 3 will go ahead as planned (refer to Year 7-10 Assessment Procedures and Policy).

Stage 5 Elective Subject Selection

The curriculum offered to students in NSW school supports the deepening of knowledge, understanding and skills in seven Key Learning Areas (KLAs). This curriculum is also purposefully designed to prepare students for civic, social and economic participation and personal health and well-being whilst providing increased opportunities for students to make choices and specialise in learning of particular interest.

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In Year 9, students commence their studies for Stage 5 schooling, including Years 9 and 10. The curriculum is designed to prepare students for senior secondary schooling, including vocational pathways.

Stage 5 Elective Subject Selection Timelines

Week	Date	Time	Event
Week 5	12/08/2021	Thursday - Period 4	Elective Subject Information package to students.
Week 7	24/08/21	Tuesday - 4.30pm	Elective Subject Selection Parents/carers Q&A Webinar.
Week 7	26/08/21	Thursday - Periods 3/4	Student focused Head Teacher Subject Selection Talks.
Week 8	3/09/21	Friday - 3.00pm	Due date Subject Selection forms.

Due date Subject Selection forms.

Please refer to the school webpage, including the Stage 5 Elective Subject Selection Booklet and the online Elective Selection Form.

Well-being Support for Students

With the transition to online school or study, students have had less time to talk to friends or change the way they spend time together. Spending more time at home may have also put additional pressure on family or household relationships, making it challenging for some students to find space to look after their well-being.

In supporting young people aged 12 – 25 years, Headspace National Youth Mental Health Foundation provides tailored and holistic support to navigate the significant issues in life, their mental and physical health and other issues, and work and study. Please contact the school during office hours if you need to discuss support.

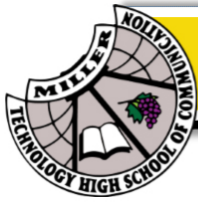
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Priority vaccination for 16-39yrs living in areas of concern

As you may have seen in the media, anyone aged 16 – 39yrs old who lives in one of the 12 LGAs of concern can now access a priority Pfizer vaccination appointment. All eligible, including students, can make a booking via NSW Health's Priority COVID-19 vaccination page.

Contacting the school

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 are constant updates.

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.

Life has changed for all of us due to COVID-19 restrictions. Some people have enjoyed these changes, others have found it challenging, and many of us will have experienced a mixture of these things.

As usual, if you have any immediate queries or support needs, please do not hesitate to contact the main High School office (Office Hours 8.30 am-3.00 pm).

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(Principal)

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