

From the Principal's Desk - Term 3 Week 1 2021

Learning From Home Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are well and in good spirits. As we are now at the start of a new school term the events and news of the day, both locally and globally about COVID- 19 are again intruding into our everyday lives and routines in significant ways.

As you may be aware the NSW Premier, Gladys Berejiklian following NSW Department of Health advice, recently announcement that the current stay at home orders for Greater Sydney, the Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Wollongong, and Shellharbour will continue until Friday 16 July. This means that students will be required to undertake learning from home, Week 1 Term 3.


While schools will remain open for the students and families who need it, although parents will be encouraged to keep their children at home. There will only be minimal staff supervision and schools will provide one unit of work for students, whether they are learning from home or in the classroom.

Please note for those on site, all staff in all school settings and students from Year 7 upwards will be required to wear masks. This is consistent with current requirements for masks to be worn in office and workplace settings and on transport services across Greater Sydney.

Student Guide to Online Teaching and Learning

In line with these guidelines, teachers in both the High School and Intensive English Centre will be delivering lessons to students in an online format (remote learning) from Tuesday 13 July through to Friday 16 July. As such, students are expected to be engaging in the online learning opportunities offered by their teachers. Any student in attendance at school will be working in the same format as those who are working from home.

Students will be following their regular timetable and lessons delivered each day at the allocated times. Below is the school bell times.



MILLER TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL
PER CULTURAM—Promoting Growth and Development

School Bell Times

Lesson	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Warning Bell	8:55	8:55	8:55	8:55	8:55
Assembly	9:00-9:20				
Period 1	9:20-10:10	9:00-9:50	9:00-9:45	9:00-9:50	9:00-9:50
Period 2	10:10-11:00	9:50-10:40	9:45-10:30	9:50-10:40	9:50-10:40
Break 1	11:00-11:30	10:40-11:10	10:30-10:50	10:40-11:10	10:40-11:10
Period 3	11:30-12:20	11:10-12:00	10:50-11:35	11:10-11:55	11:10-12:00
Period 4	12:20-1:10	12:00-12:50	11:35-12:20	11:55-12:40	12:00-12:50
Year Meetings				12:40-12:50	
Break 2	1:10-1:40	12:50-1:20	12:20-12:50	12:50-1:20	12:50-1:20
Period 5	1:40-2:30	1:20-2:10	12:50-1:35	1:20-2:10	1:20-2:10
Period 6		2:10-3:00	1:35-2:25	2:10-3:00	2:10-3:00

Principal: Dr Ken Edge
 Phone: (02) 9607 8669 Fax: (02) 9607 9460
 Address: 60 Cabramatta Avenue (PO Box 361) Miller NSW 2168 Email: miller-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Google Classroom

Each individual subject and class have a unique 'classroom code'. Students are invited by their teacher to join the class. Teachers will monitor the members of the class.

Please contact the school if you are having difficulty accessing the Google Classroom for each of your subjects. Parents are also able to join the classroom if they wish. Please contact the teacher to make this arrangement (an invitation will be sent to your email address).

Teachers will upload their lesson according to the bell times and will be available to answer questions and give student feedback during their timetabled lessons. Please contact the school if your child does not have a copy of their timetable.

Students are required to comment under the lesson instructions 'present' or 'here'. Teachers will use this information to mark the roll for the class. Student engagement in learning will be monitored through virtual class attendance and on-going submission of tasks and classwork.

(Please refer to Appendix 1: Online Teaching and Learning – Responsibilities and Expectations)

In supporting student learning, we will endeavour (following from the support provided in 2020) to contact each family to conduct an online learning Health Check in relation to:

- Access to a device at home
- Internet problems
- Google Classroom access and codes
- Provide an opportunity to raise questions about technology support.

I am also requesting that parents/carers check, and update if required, the email address that is registered with the school.

HSC Students

HSC students will be supported to do coursework, project work and exam preparations where this cannot be done from home. However, students who attend will be required to adhere to strict COVID safe practices, including physical distancing and wearing a mask or face covering.

For information about the HSC, visit educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/covid-19-advice [External link](#). Teachers, students, and parents can also contact the NESA COVID-19 support team on 1300 138 323 or covid19support@nesa.nsw.edu.au. Further advice will be provided about HSC trial exams.

Support Unit Students

Ms Azzi and the Support Faculty staff will be contacting parents/cares to outline the support for students during learning from home.

The Assisted School Travel Program (ASTP) will remain available for students who access the service and continue to attend school on site. Adhere to COVID safe practices in line with NSW Health advice.

Visitors

Non-essential visitors are **NOT PERMITTED** on school sites. All parents/cares should remain outside of school grounds. However, if a parent/carer is required to be onsite they need to:

- follow the physical distancing advice for their local area and avoid gathering outside of school gates (some exceptions may exist including, vulnerable students or students with disabilities).
- adhere to mask-wearing requirements and sign in using the Service NSW QR code when entering the school.

Canteen

Given the current stay at home orders the school canteen will be closed from Tuesday 13 July through to Friday 16 July and will not be providing a service. Any student in attendance at school will need to bring their own food and water bottle to fill.

A Reminder for All Families

Students should not attend school if unwell, even with mild symptoms of COVID-19. Any person with any COVID-19 symptoms will be sent home and should not return to school until they have received a negative test result and are symptom-free.

In circumstances where children have other medical reasons for recurrent symptoms, a letter from their GP is sufficient to negate the requirement for a negative test.

Anyone who is unwell with COVID-19 symptoms is strongly encouraged to get tested and self-isolate until a negative result is received. Find your local [testing clinics](#).

Cyber Safe Families

The following resources support children in being responsible online users:

- [Cyber safe families](#) – an overview of cyber safety
- [Technology and wellbeing](#) – useful tips and tools
- [Digital citizenship External link](#) – a collection of articles and resources to maximise students' use of technology.

Wellbeing Support and Staying Connected

The importance of supporting students' wellbeing for enhancing learning and social and emotional development is well established. Nurturing students' wellbeing in safe, supportive, and inclusive school and home environments assists children and young people to be resilient, confident, and lifelong learners.

As uncertainty and worry related to COVID-19 continues, you may again notice changes in your child's behaviour, sleep, mood, interactions with others, or eating habits. These are all normal expressions of worry and by noticing and responding with care and support, you will help your child to feel better.

In supporting families, the school's Wellbeing Team has developed two Google apps, MTHS Parent Hub and MTHS Student Hub containing tips, apps and online/phone resources.

Parent Hub link: <https://sites.google.com/education.nsw.gov.au/mths-parent-hub/home>

Student Hub link: <https://sites.google.com/education.nsw.gov.au/mthsstudenthub/home>

Some additional support for you and your children that are free, anonymous, and confidential include:

Kids Helpline (1800 55 1800 or www.kidshelp.com.au)

Lifeline (13 11 14 or www.lifeline.org.au)

Headspace (1800 650 890 or www.eheadspace.org.au)

Your critical support in maintaining your children's morale and positivity high in these extraordinary times is greatly appreciated and respected. So 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.

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.

For schooling and education, COVID-19 is again causing a big shift in our "normal". A big thank you for your patience and assistance and understanding as we navigate resources and suggestions for best practice for our teachers, students, and families into our online learning platform once again.

I am confident we can work through the challenges together as a community to balance resilience, self-confidence and self-compassion in order keep staff and students safe.

Take care and keep safe.

Dr Ken Edge

(Principal)

Appendix 1: Online Teaching and Learning – Responsibilities and Expectations

Student Responsibilities	Parent/Carers Responsibilities	Teacher Responsibilities
<p>Expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow their normal daily timetable • Set up an appropriate online learning space • Ensure laptop and headphones are in working order • Join your Google Classroom each lesson and write 'present' or 'here' under the teacher instructions • Access work online • Complete and submit all tasks and participate in all activities set by teacher • Contact teacher during class time and school hours about any concerns with the work • Follow assessment policy and procedure including misadventure requirements • Maintain a safe online environment by being respectful online • Monitor school email to keep up to date with school expectation • Ensure all work is their own • Tell parents if they have issues with technology. 	<p>Expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Familiarise yourself with the students timetable and support them to follow it including breaks • Provide student with an appropriate online learning space and resources to meet learning outcomes • Communicate via email to school Miller-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au if work is not provided for a particular lesson. Include details of class and date. • Be patient with school staff in resolving any issues that may arise in moving to an online teaching and learning environment • Support student in adapting to an online teaching and learning environment • Maintain laptop and headphones in working order • Contact the school during school hours about any concerns with access to technology • Support student in maintaining a safe online learning environment by insisting on respectful communication • Check student monitors their school email to keep up to date with information and school expectations. 	<p>Expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be in timetabled classroom and check-in with students at the beginning of each lesson • Mark SENTRAL roll - students present • Upload quality learning material that challenges students to be completed during the allocated class time • Be available for students to ask questions online e.g., email/Google docs/Google classroom during designated class time and school hours • Keep a separate roll of students who participate in the lesson and submit work and assigned tasks • Make sure technology works as needed and log any issues with Mr Kumar so they can be resolved • Collect some evidence of student learning. Google docs, video conference questions answered, student work samples, Google Forms: Exit Ticket, Video of performance, Photo of creation • Provide feedback on student work e.g., verbal or written whole class feedback. Annotations on a few students work samples that are public • Provide individual written feedback at the same rate as you usually would • Follow up with students who are not working during the allocated class time • Modify assessments/work to be suitable for remote learning and online submission • Use systems to reduce opportunity for plagiarism • Follow the N warning process • Notify Year Adviser of any student wellbeing concerns • Follow NESA and school assessment procedures • Contact parents about any concerns with student learning.
<p>Not expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend school 	<p>Not expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send students to school • Perform role of teacher • Have knowledge of subject 	<p>Not expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide services of a private tutor • Individual video conferences • Reply to students or parents outside of school hours • Deliver face - to - face lessons to student