

From the Principal's Desk – Term 4 Week 5 2021

Dear parents/carers,

After 13 weeks of silent hallways and empty classrooms, I was delighted to welcome staff and students back to face-to-face learning in last week.

For me it was wonderful see those shining eyes peeking over the tops of masks as students arrived in the morning. As one of our returning students said, "I am really happy that it is nearly all over. I am a very social person and looking forward to returning to school to catching-up with my friends."

As announced by the Minister, from 8 November all NSW schools will move to updated Level 3 settings that will bring our school operations more in line with what is allowed in the community. I would like to update you on the key changes that will be in place at our school from Monday 8 November and for the rest of Term 4.

From 8 November 2021

Our school will operate on updated **Level 3 settings** for the rest of Term 4 2021, with the following activities allowed in a COVID-safe manner:

- Assemblies and presentations are allowed outdoors, with cohorts separated and physical distancing in place. Fully vaccinated visitors (including parents and carers) are only allowed to attend if completing a specific role (such as presenting) and at the invitation of the school.
- Community use is allowed outside of school hours (including P&C meetings) with COVID-safe plans in place – in line with public health requirements.
- Dancing, bands, ensembles, and music classes will be allowed within cohorts. However, everyone must wear masks while playing instruments indoors. Other instruments that rely on breath or require a mask to be removed to be played, as well as singing and chanting, are not permitted in Term 4.
- Excursions are allowed outdoors (and indoors where sole use of the premises is available).
- Incursions are allowed indoors and outdoors where cohorts are kept separate.
- Graduations and formals are allowed within cohorts, either on school sites or at external venues – with COVID-safe plans in place and physical distancing adhered to.
- School sports are allowed, including inter-school sports and access to indoor and outdoor pools (from 1 November).
- Transitions and orientations are allowed in a COVID-safe way that minimises mingling between students.

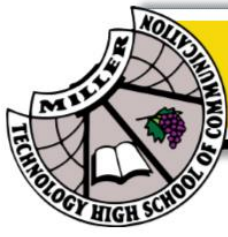
Principal: Dr Ken Edge

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Fax: (02) 9607 9460

Address: 60 Cabramatta Avenue (PO Box 361) Miller NSW 2168

Email: miller-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au



Keeping us all safe on school grounds

A combination of layered COVID-safe plans and measures will allow us to prioritise student and staff safety and keep our school open. To do this, the following guidelines will be in place:

- Students, staff, and visitors must not attend school if unwell, even with mild symptoms.
- **All staff and adult visitors on the school site must be fully vaccinated and provide proof of vaccination.**
- Masks are required indoors for all staff, adult visitors, and students in Year 7 students and above. Masks can be removed when eating or exercising.
- All staff and visitors must check in when attending a school site or gathering.
- Adults should maintain 1.5 metres physical distancing wherever practicable.
- Activities and events should be held outdoors where practical.
- Indoor spaces will be well ventilated and as large as possible for the number of attendees - following square metre guidelines.
- Students should avoid mingling with other class and year groups when moving around the school.
- Students and staff will maintain good hand hygiene and schools will continue with enhanced cleaning, including high touch points.

Please feel free to share this information with other members of your community.

Parents and carers on site to support school operations

Fully vaccinated parents and carers will be allowed on-site to support curriculum delivery, student wellbeing activities and school operations. Parents and carers must check in using the school check-in and show proof of vaccination on entry to the school site.

School Safety Zone

School Zone signage helps to moderate traffic flows, with the safety for staff on supervision, students and their families a priority.

As communicated in previous updates, when dropping-off and picking-up your children by car please use the side streets near the school, especially in the afternoons. Also, when dropping-off or picking-up it is safest for your children to get out of the car on the kerb side of the road to avoid passing traffic. Calling out to them from across the road is dangerous – they may run to you without checking for traffic first.

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Please adhere to the 40km/h speed limit in the School Zone and look for buses pulling out, when parking adjacent to the school. Park legally to avoid dangerous manoeuvres such as U-turns and three-point turns and always give way to pedestrians, particularly when entering and leaving driveways.

Please note, Liverpool council traffic wardens regularly patrol the School Zone area with infringement notices issued for traffic offences (please refer to the attached Liverpool Council School Zone information).

Drop - offs and Pick-up

When dropping off and picking pick-up children, parents and carers should:

- Stay in your car
- follow the physical distancing requirements and avoid gathering outside of the school gates
- remain outside school grounds (some exceptions exist for our Support Unit students.
- adhere to mask-wearing requirements in accordance with the Public Health Order
- sign in using the Service NSW QR code if entering the school.

HSC Examinations Update

As our Year 12 students and their families would be aware the HSC examinations will commence on the Tuesday 9 November. As our students prepare for their HSC exams, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each student for their hard work and dedication to studies.

I would also like to acknowledge that the past couple of years has had its challenges with interruptions to your face-to-face learning patterns due to the pandemic. You have done very well in making it to this milestone – congratulations!

On each exam day

- Students need to make certain that they are familiar with their personal exam timetable with will an alternate venue listed.
- Arrive no more than 30 minutes prior (**except for English and Mathematics when students need to arrive 50 minutes prior to exam time**) to the exam and report directly to the designated screening and sign-in area.
- Students will be asked some screening questions to make sure you are well and do not have any flu-like or COVID-19 symptoms.

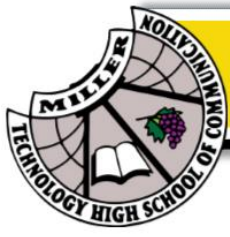
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Please refer to the attached Miller THS COVID-Safe HSC Package – Procedures & Protocols to review more detailed information about HSC expectations and Illness Misadventure information.

Ms Porter or Mr Shea are always available if students need additional support and guidance in preparation for their exams. The [COVID-safe HSC exam advice for students](#) page (click on the link) also has up-to date information. Once again, congratulations on reaching this important milestone.

Year 12 Graduation and Formal for mainstream and Support Unit Students

The Year 12 Graduation will take place on the evening of **Thursday 9 December at Liverpool Catholic Club**. Full details about rehearsals and arrival times will be communicated to families and students before the event.

Please note, that to comply with NSW Health guidelines, only fully vaccinated people, including students, will be able to attend the ceremony. External visitors will not be able to access the Graduation Ceremony.

The Year 12 Formal will take place on **Friday 17 December** at Le Montage Function Centre, Lillyfield, from 6.00 to 10:30pm. Although it is envisaged that a bus will be available, parents are kindly requested to make travel arrangements to ensure the safety of their child to the formal and at the conclusion.

The cost for each student is \$100 that has been subsidised by the school. Payments can be made from 8 November. The Parent online Payment (POP) facility located on our school website is the preferred method of payment (refer to POP payment information attached).

To access this facility, you must have an email address. The payment page is accessed from the front page of our school website using the "Make a Payment" tab.

Please be aware that this information is subject to change based on advice from NSW Health and the Department of Education. Any changes will be communicated to parents.

The Term 4 Road Map provided the Department of Education summaries the changes announced (refer to attachment). Please feel free to share this information with other members of our community.

Again, I would like to thank all of parents and carers for your understanding and support. If you have any immediate needs or questions, please do not hesitate to contact the main High School office (Office Hours 8.30am-3.00pm).

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MILLER TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL

PER CULTURAM—Promoting Growth and Development

If you need an interpreter to assist with an enquiry outside of school hours, please call the Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450 and ask for an interpreter in your language. Give the operator your call back phone number and an interpreter will assist with your conversation. This is a free service.

Again, I would like to thank all of parents and carers for your understanding and support.

Dr Ken Edge
(Principal)

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