

From the Principal's Desk – Term 4 Week 2 2021

Dear parents/carers,

We are excited about our return to face-to-face learning and welcoming students and staff back onsite where we know the best learning happens. We know that while there will be eagerness, there will also be some hesitation about being back together at school.

Our COVID-safe return to school plan includes numerous practices to support the health and wellbeing of our students and staff. These practices include vaccinations, mask wearing, reduced mingling of student groups and staff, ventilation in classrooms and continued good hygiene and cleaning.

The best learning environment for students is in the classroom. We are confident that this, in combination with support from our school community, will minimise risk and help to keep students learning face-to-face next to their peers.

Key dates for our staged return

While we know there is excitement about the return to school it is important that we stick to the staged return to give us time to be ready to welcome back students onsite. Students will return to face-to-face learning in the following order:

- From 18 October – department preschool, Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 12.
- From 25 October – all remaining year groups.

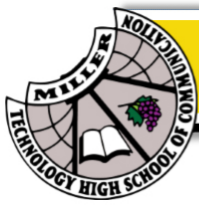
Keeping students together

As we return to school students will be kept in their cohorts to minimise opportunities for transmission of COVID-19 and to enable effective contact tracing and containment. This means minimising interaction between students on school grounds and keeping cohorts together where possible.

Information about our school plans in managing Year 7-11 cohorts returning to minimise opportunities for transmission of COVID-19, including home rooms, staggering of recess and lunch breaks will be communicated to families in during Week 3.

Mask wearing for staff and students

Masks are required to be worn on school site by staff indoors and outdoors and required for students indoors and outdoors unless eating or exercising. The current Public Health Order also includes reasons why someone may not be wearing a mask or face covering, for example skin conditions, intellectual disability, autism or trauma. These students will not be excluded from school for not wearing a mask or face covering.



Vaccinations

All staff required on site supporting the return to school will need to be fully vaccinated from 18 October. Then from 8 November all staff, contractors, volunteers and students on student placement on a school site will need to be fully vaccinated.

Ventilation

Having open or well-ventilated spaces reduces the risk of transmission of COVID-19 because infectious particles are more quickly diffused in the open air. The department will continue to work with NSW Health to provide us with advice and guidance on maintaining good ventilation in our school and we will make use of our outdoor spaces wherever practical.

School activities

During Term 4 many school-based activities will remain on hold until NSW Health advise otherwise. This includes large celebrations, including assemblies, presentation days and graduations, arts and sports events.

COVID communication

Parents and students will be notified if a decision is made to close the school due to a confirmed case of COVID-19. During this time, we will continue to provide learning from home activities, and we will let you know when we can return to face-to-face learning.

Year 6/7 orientation and transition to school

Onsite orientations and transition programs are not currently allowed in person on school sites until we are advised differently by NSW Health. We will share more information in the coming weeks about our school's virtual Year 6/7 orientation and transition program.

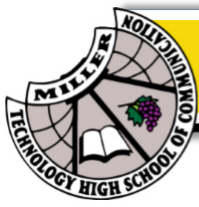
Week 2 HSC revision and support (Level 4 setting)

As Year 12 prepare for their HSC exams, I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work and dedication to their studies. I would also like to acknowledge that the past couple of years has had its challenges with interruptions to their face-to-face learning patterns due to the pandemic. All Year 12 have done remarkably well in making it to this milestone – congratulations!

In supporting HSC preparation, Year 12 teachers have posted lessons on Google Classroom for revision during normal timetabled HSC classes.

Year 12 students are also able to attend over the next few weeks at school a revision **Study Bubble**, within the following guidelines.

- All sessions will be held in the **school hall**
- Study Bubble hours are from **10am – 1pm only**
- No more than 5 students per group



- Students cannot be in more than **one Study Bubble** per day
- Nominated leader responsible for pre-booking sessions **no later than 7.00pm the night before**
- **No access** to the school canteen or other classrooms.

Booking need to be made through the following Google Form link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScw3mFWVPb3jJvcXMoES7JJ3j5Vx3EGaSFLp4kkjUZ1_JdNA/viewform?usp=sf_link

If students have any further questions, please contact Ms Porter, Mr Yacoub, Ms Toon or via Facebook or Google classroom.

Week 3 HSC revision and support (Level 3 Plus setting)

Curriculum revision will be supported within the following guidelines:

- All lessons scheduled in **E-Block**
- Recess/Lunch - **Senior COLA**
- Student to follow **normal timetable**
- **No access to the school canteen or other classrooms**, except for specialist instruction and following COVID safe procedures.

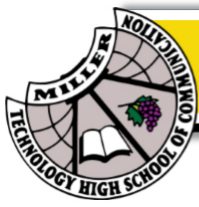
Weeks 4/5 HSC revision and support (Level 3 Plus setting)

Curriculum revision will be supported within the following guidelines:

- All lessons to be held in the **school hall**
- Students to follow **normal timetable**
- Students are to report to the **front office on arrival sign-in and sign-out**
- Students must follow COVID safe procedures, **compulsory wearing of masks**
- Recess/lunch allocated area **Senior COLA**
- **Pre-ordering** of food from the canteen.

Note:

- All students are to **report to the front office on arrival to sign-in and sign-out**
- All students **MUST** follow COVID safe procedures, including the compulsory wearing of masks
- **No access other classrooms**, except for specialist instruction and following COVID safe procedures
- **Full school uniform** must be worn
- **Normal school expectations** and procedures apply.



HSC wellbeing and support

During this complex time, students may feel that they need additional wellbeing support from the school. School support staff will be available on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 1-3pm to discuss your needs.

Students can access wellbeing support self-referral form through the following Google Form link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdWhjbME9Aq9S4sDrJ-GXi-RkhZiYePQDQ3NklvmGL_mR_C6Q/viewform?usp=sf_link

This form must be completed by 7 pm the day **PRIOR** to your requested time. Once completed, the appropriate school staff member will contact you on the provided mobile number to confirm your booking time.

Please remember, school Support staff are not school counsellors. They will talk to you about your concerns and make recommendations about services/other staff that may be able to help you further.

HSC examinations

We are putting in place and preparing COVID-safe arrangements for exams to minimise mixing between students. These plans include appropriate spacing for students and that the examinations are conducted in well-ventilated rooms and spaces, mask wearing for students and staff onsite. We are also organising alternative venues in the event we need to relocate the HSC examinations. Further details will be provided in the up-coming weeks.

Parent survey

We understand the importance of knowing in advance the level of concern among parents and carers regarding your child's return to face-to-face learning.

Following requests from schools for support with parent sentiment, the NSW Department of Education has developed a 2-minute survey asking you to indicate your return to school intentions. This is an optional survey with our school's findings supporting our planning in returning students to school.

Our school's survey link

https://research.det.nsw.edu.au/jfe/form/SV_5BAxh4fuj5wnsWO?RID=CGC_OhqvzyYgGwNXYek&Q_CHL=email

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).

Dr Ken Edge
(Principal)