



## **From the Principal's Desk - 27 April 2020**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had good health and had a happy autumn holiday break - a time to play to laugh and to recharge so that we all feel confident in our ability to face the challenges ahead.

How differently the world looks now compared to day one back in January. It has been a steep learning curve for all of us and I would to acknowledge the exceptional work of all teachers and I commend the entire team for their commitment to our students. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all parents/carers for your goodwill and understanding, when sometimes there were no answers to give in this new world of learning.

In this time of significant change, I would like to welcome Ms Natali Gulic to the school executive team as Head Teacher Welfare. Ms Gulic brings to the position a proven capacity to lead and promote student wellbeing and engagement. A big thank you to Ms Tradd for her leadership over the past twelve months in building on our current wellbeing programs to ensure that every student is cared for in all aspects of learning. Congratulation also to Ms Ogden on her appointment as the Intensive English Centre's School Administration Manager.

### **Working Together for Home Education**

During the last weeks of Term 1, we were able to adapt to the new home learning requirements, with most students participating in their education via online delivery. This was expeditiously supported by several years of development of our Laptops for Learning program and the professional development of staff in the use of online resources such as Google Classroom and Zoom video, in line with the NSW Department of Education (DoE) guidelines.

Now as we begin Term 2 the NSW DoE has announced an additional pupil-free School Development Day, **Tuesday 28 April** to allow for further planning and professional learning for teachers and staff.

The Remote Learning model will re-commence from **Wednesday 29 April** similar to the end of last term. Families who are able to keep their children home to learn remotely are asked to please do so to assist us with social distancing. Those students who are unable to learn from home are welcome to attend school.

I have no doubt you are aware of the Premier and Education Minister's media briefing earlier this week regarding learning in NSW Public Schools in Term 2.

The Premier announced the transition back to the classroom model for Term 2 (for more information please refer to: *A Managed Return to School - Guidelines for Parents*). NSW Public School students will gradually transition back to school, one day per week, beginning in Week 3 (Monday 11 May).

On **Monday 11 May**, we will move into Phase One of the managed return to school for students. In this phase, all NSW students will attend school one day per week and learn remotely 4 days per week. It is anticipated that all NSW students will increase the number of days at school before the end of the term, under the advice of NSW Health. There will be additional cleaning during the day at school and social distancing measures in place.



Next week, I will be working with the executive team and staff to organise and structure Miller Technology High School's Phase One managed return for our students. I will communicate the structure as early as possible to give families enough time to make arrangements.

This term will certainly bring challenges but I am confident we can work through them together as a community.

The website <https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families> has been updated and may have information that interests you.

### **Wellbeing and Staying Connected**

Wellbeing is the most important aspect in this climate. The school has a range of supports in place to help manage these challenges.

Please speak to your children's Year Adviser as the first point of contact to arrange assistance. Other suggestions, are to make certain that your children stay in touch with their friends, and link with them to complete work like they would in class. Have the learning conversations as well as the personal ones. Go outside and have a walk, enjoy the fresh air. Take regular breaks like you do at school. Complete work the best you can and like in the classroom ask for help when you need it.

As indicated in my communication at the end of last term, our Wellbeing Team has also developed two Google apps, MTHS Parent Hub and MTHS Student Hub containing tips, apps and online/phone resources to support families in these challenging and uncertain times.

**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>

Please also 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, the 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](mailto:miller-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au) or Miller IEC at [miller-i.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:miller-i.school@det.nsw.edu.au).

It is vitally important for all students to be engaging in learning. We understand that it can be challenging, but we are here to support you. Teachers and school executive are always on duty during school hours and can be contacted by school email. If you need to, we are only a phone call away.

### **HSC and Assessments**

Students undertaking HSC courses in 2020 are a priority both in terms of their education and wellbeing. While there is a lot of information about in the media it is important to reinforce, that while this is an unusual year, no student will be disadvantaged.



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At this time, it is essential that students stay on course towards the HSC to the best of their abilities. Students will be informed by their class teachers directly about any changes to learning or assessment procedures and be assured we are working purposefully to deliver the best outcomes for students. However, the school will still follow NESA rules for tasks not submitted, and N award letters may be sent.

Can we also ask that any Stage 6 student that is coming into the school either to meet with a teacher, use facilities or borrow equipment sign in and out electronically at the main office. Appointments must be made with teachers if a student is not attending school for that day, but wants to come in for a short time.

Again I would like thank all of our parents and carers for your patience and co-operation. You are doing such a fabulous job as we all work together in facilitating your children's learning from home. As Principal of this wonderful school, I feel truly privileged to be part of our community and to work with such dedicated and professional staff.

Regards,  
Dr Ken Edge  
(Principal)