



Principal's Update

9 June 2020

Our mission - building a caring and safe learning environment where great teaching supports and inspires all students to grow, develop and succeed.

School Attendance and COVID-19



Following the Learning from Home period at the end of Term 1 and beginning of Term 2, all students returned to face-to-face learning from Monday, 25 May. All students should be at school unless:

- They have a medical certificate which states they are unable to return to school due to an ongoing medical condition
- They are currently unwell

Students who have a medical certificate to stay at home will be supported to learn from home in line with regular procedures if they were able to attend school. These regular procedures are different to what was offered during the learning from home period. If you require work to be provided to your child whilst they are at home due to an underlying health condition, you should contact the school.

Please note, students who live with a family member in one of the categories identified as being at increased risk by the AHPPC, should attend school unless a medical practitioner advises otherwise in writing. If your child is unwell, do not send them to school. If they are unwell at school, you or your nominated emergency contact will need to collect them immediately. Please make sure your contact details are up to date.

Return to Face-to-Face Learning



Students have returned to face-to-face learning from Monday, 25 May. We are delighted to have our students back and I am certain they have missed their teachers as much as their teachers have missed them!

Hawkesbury High School was in a very good position to support student learning from home. We introduced BYOD at the beginning of this year, which means that many students already had their own devices which were used to access online learning materials. Teachers will continue using Google Classroom, although most learning will be delivered face-to-face. Google Classroom is an excellent learning platform that will allow students to continue accessing learning materials if they are absent, submit assignments, and help them get organised. All staff have received training on how to use Google Classroom as part of the school's transition to BYOD, and many students were already using it well before learning from home.

Reporting and Assessment



All students were expected to complete school work during the learning from home period. While all formal assessments and tests were cancelled during this time, students still completed work and teachers were able to use that work as evidence of student progress and learning. Also, students have transitioned to face-to-face learning from Monday, 25 May, and part of this will be additional activities that will allow teachers to assess student progress and achievement. This information will be used by teachers to make on-balance judgements of student achievement and strategies on how to improve.

Parents will receive their child's Semester 1 report at the end of Week 2 of Term 3. Semester 1 reports will include information on every student's overall grade in each course and the percentage of students in each course who have achieved each grade. This information will allow parents to track their children's progress and see how their child compares to others in the year group or course studied.

School Cleaning and Hygiene

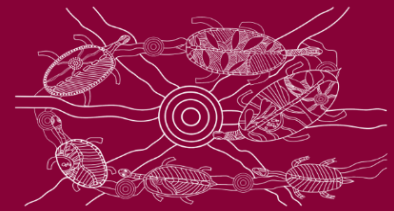


While school students do not need to follow physical distancing guidelines, the school has introduced additional cleaning in line with the AHPPC guidelines and advice from NSW Health. Targeted areas for additional cleaning include high-touch areas and other hard surfaces, door handles, lockers, light switches and handrails in stairways and movement areas. There will also be additional cleaning of toilets and topping up of supplies like soap. Students are not allowed to use bubblers, but they can fill up their drink bottles at the chilled water stations. The school has received additional supplies of soap, hand sanitiser, toilet paper, paper towels, and disinfectant wipes. Students are also continually reminded of the importance of not sharing equipment, using hand sanitiser, and washing of hands during breaks.



Hawkesbury High School

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More on Semester 1 Reports

I have received a number of enquiries from parents about what assessment and Half-Yearly Reports will look like at the end of Semester 1. This is a good question, although I will emphasise that learning is still continuing, even if schools delivered the curriculum in a different way for a period of time. Students are submitting work, and teachers are still collecting evidence of student learning. This evidence will be used to determine students' achievement against a pre-determined standard aligned to achievement descriptors, A-E. Teachers will use evidence of ALL student learning to make a judgement on where they fit on this continuum of learning, whether a student has provided sufficient evidence to receive an A, B, C, D or E on their school report. This is a much better way of assessing students (formative assessment), as it allows students to demonstrate what they know through a range of activities over time rather than rely on a small number of high stakes tests or exams and marks from those exams (summative assessment).

Parents have also asked the very good question about knowing how their child compares to others in the same year group, or class. While summative assessment (exams and tests) makes it easier to quantify student achievement with a number or rank, summative tasks only compare a student to their group and do not tell parents about how students are doing overall, particularly when compared to a pre-determined, state-wide standard. To give parents additional information about their children's progress, the school will include in Semester 1 reports the percentage of students in a course or year group who have achieved each grade. For example, if your child has received an A, and only 10% of the class have received that grade, you can be confident that your child is achieving at the top of the class AND is in the top of the State in that subject.

In the example below, parents can see both the distribution of grades in the class, where their child sits in relation to other students AND in relation to the state-wide standard.

A	B	C	D	E
10%	20%	45%	20%	5%

The 2020 HSC and COVID-19

The 2020 HSC is going ahead. However, everyone is mindful of the stresses and anxieties the current circumstances pose for our Year 12 students (and Year 11 students). The school has already made adjustments in relation to current assessment tasks, with all tasks between 24 March and 11 May being cancelled. Additional adjustments include postponing assessment tasks originally scheduled later in Term 2, and mapping outcomes in cancelled tasks to subsequent tasks.

For more detail on current adjustments, including advice in relation to practical subjects, VET and major works, please visit <https://hawkesbury-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/learning-at-our-school/assessment-and-reporting.html>

As the current situation develops, I can reassure all students and parents that no student studying for the HSC will be disadvantaged. More information on the 2020 HSC can be found on the NESA website on <https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/covid-19/coronavirus-advice/hsc>

Wednesday Early Finish

A reminder to all parents that school finishes at 1:50 pm on Wednesdays. Students who are picked up, or who normally walk home, are allowed to leave at 1:50 pm.

All other students must remain in school grounds where teacher supervision will be provided in designated areas until school buses depart at their scheduled time.

School Grounds

There should be no visitors to the school site unless they are essential. Parents are encouraged to drop off their children at the front gate and meet them there at the end of the day. For any other school-related matters, parents should use the parent foyer at the school's main entrance off Hibberts Lane.

COVID-19 Update

Current advice on COVID-19 is available on the school's website and on the Department's website on <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/school-safety/novel-coronavirus>. NSW Health have processes in place to identify any close contacts with confirmed cases. NSW Health and the Department of Education are in constant and close communication, as is the school. In the meantime, I ask everyone to monitor their own health, seek medical advice if they feel unwell and maintain good hygiene practices – as we would in any case. If you or your child develop flu-like symptoms you should seek medical advice, and if any case of COVID19 is confirmed in your family, please advise the school promptly.

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