



Hawkesbury High School

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18 October, 2021

Information for Parents – Return to School for Years 7-11

Students in years 7-11 will be returning to face-to-face learning on Monday, 25 October. Hawkesbury High School will operate at Level 3 Plus restrictions, subject to NSW Health guidance.

Regular timetabled lessons for years 7-11 will resume from 25 October, following the Monday **Week B timetable**. However, the school will make adjustments to minimise the mixing of year groups and to reduce the risks to students and staff. These adjustments include:

- School will start at 9 am, with roll call classes no longer running. Student rolls will be marked at the beginning of Period 1.
- An additional break will be introduced between periods 3 and 4 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Each period will be reduced by 5 minutes, creating an additional 25 minute break between recess and lunch.
- Playground areas will be restricted to cohort groups only. This means that each year group will have a dedicated playground area and students will not be permitted to mix with other year groups in the playground.
- No active contact games will be permitted during break times.
- Dedicated toilets will be provided for stage groups to minimise mixing of year groups.
- Staggered bell times will be introduced for Stage 4 (7 and 8) and Stage 5 (9 and 10) students who will move to class at different times after breaks.
- The canteen will be available to students, but with no counter service. Canteen orders must be placed before 9 am. Order pickups will be separated into discrete year group lines at the beginning of each break.
- Wednesday Sport will continue within existing PDHPE classes and year cohorts, with physical distancing guidelines. Wednesday Sport times will be staggered to reduce contact between groups.
- Year meetings will be in year groups only, with school assemblies conducted remotely via Zoom.

In addition to the adjustments listed above, masks must be worn indoors by all staff and students, at all times. Students must bring their face masks to school, although disposable masks will be available for students who need them.

Enhanced cleaning arrangements will also take place, and all classrooms will be ventilated at all times, with doors and windows open to increase air circulation, and fans and air conditioners (where available) will also be turned on. Students and staff travelling to and from school by public transport must follow NSW Health advice, including mask wearing. In addition, all staff members on the school site will be fully vaccinated, and I strongly encourage parents to vaccinate their eligible children.

To support our efforts to have students resume normal school routines as quickly as possible, please ensure that your child wears full school uniform. If your child has outgrown their school uniform, the uniform shop is taking online orders through <https://theschoollocker.com.au/schools/hawkesbury-high-school>, with uniform pickup available via the front office. Please contact the school if you need assistance with uniform.



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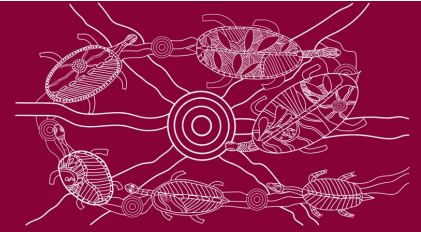
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School events such as excursions, school camps, transition events and end of year celebrations cannot run while the school is at Level 3 or Level 3+ restrictions. Any planning for graduations, awards ceremonies and school formals must take current Department of Education guidelines into account to provide as much certainty as possible and to run in a safe manner.

While Department of Education guidelines NSW Health restrictions may be relaxed at short notice, they may also be tightened at short notice. To provide students and parents with as much certainty as possible, and to allow for appropriate planning, some events will be adjusted in response to restrictions on numbers, planning requirements, booking and confirmation deadlines, and other requirements guiding school operations, including NSW Health and Department of Education guidelines. More information on individual events, such as graduations and formals, will be provided separately.

There is currently a lot of conflicting and somewhat confusing information circulating in the mainstream and social media. In addition, rules and guidelines that may apply to shops, pubs, restaurants and offices, may not apply to schools. I have attached to this letter several documents that will inform you on current arrangements at Hawkesbury High School, including answers to frequently asked questions. Also, please do not hesitate to contact the school should you have any questions or concerns.

For more information and the latest updates, please go to <https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>

Yours truly,

Igor Maric

Principal