



What you need to know about our return to school in Term 4

We're excited about our return to face-to-face learning and welcoming students and staff back onsite where we know the best learning happens. This is a short summary of what our parents and students can expect.



Key dates for our staged return

While we know there is excitement about the return to school it's 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 – Year 12
- from 25 October – all remaining year groups.



Our school's COVID-safe operations

Our COVID-safe return to school plan is NSW Health approved and includes numerous effective 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.



Keeping student groups 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.



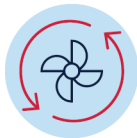
Mask wearing for students and staff

Masks are required to be worn on school site by staff and students indoors unless exercising or eating.



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, including Outside of School Hours Care staff.



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.

The school has had a ventilation audit and all required works have been completed.



School activities

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

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.



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.

In the event the school needs to close, information will be emailed to all parents and posted on the school's website and social media pages.



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'll share more information in the coming weeks about our school's

virtual orientation and transition program.



HSC exams

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 exams 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 exams.

Information on the alternate venue, if required, will be sent to Year 12 students in the days prior to the commencement of HSC exams.