



8 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Yesterday the NSW Government again changed the dates for some students to return to school. The new plan will still see Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 12 students back at school on Monday 18 October with all other students expected to return on Monday 25 October. Our staff are really looking forward to welcoming their students back!

For many families, this news will bring joy as students are able to return to school and reconnect with their friends and teachers sooner. We understand that for others in our communities, such as students with complex health conditions, an earlier return date may cause concern. If your family needs additional support, please reach out to your child's school to discuss how we can help.

The health and safety of our communities remain our top priority. We will continue to follow the health advice, which includes strong support for vaccinations. Each school has a detailed COVID-safe plan which includes hygiene measures, regular cleaning, year groupings where possible, maintaining good ventilation and measures to regularly monitor and improve air quality. We are ready to respond if there are any further cases of COVID-19 within our school communities.

Our teachers are excited about being able to focus on teaching their students at school again. We know that the face-to-face connection between the teacher and their students are so important, as are the social contacts between classmates.

Your child's school will be in contact with further information about how today's news impacts on their return to school plan. They will also provide you with more details about the kind of school activities that can take place during the term. A reminder also that for many secondary schools, the schedule for face-to-face learning for students in Years 7 to 11 will need to be flexible so that the large candidature HSC exams can be held under COVID-safe conditions.

Thank you for your outstanding support of students' remote learning across more than 100 days of 'lockdown'. We appreciate your ongoing support and understanding as we continue to work together to respond to COVID-19.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Whitby', is written over a white background.

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