

Principal's Update

8 May 2020

Dear all

We are very much looking forward to having students return next week. It certainly has been a challenging time for students, staff and families as we have all tried to adjust to a new socially distanced existence.

While many of our students find online learning suits their disposition and enjoy the opportunity to work from home, others have found online learning extremely difficult; missing their friends, the interaction with their teachers in the classroom and the social opportunities that come with being at school.

Of course children all fall somewhere on this continuum. As our students return to school, they may be confronted by work expectations, readjusting to the school routine and more.

Our focus now must be on students' wellbeing. I would like to remind you that we have an outstanding wellbeing team. Firstly we have two School Counsellors - Christina Tantalos (Mon, Fri) and Sandra Vine (Tues, Wed, Thurs), as well as a specific team for each Year Group.

Stage 4 (Years 7 and 8):

Neil Parsons - Deputy Stage 4, Bernadette Smith - HT Stage 4 and ESL coordinator, and Year Advisors - Keith Hardy and Erin Li (Year 7) and Joe Olchoway and Sophia Kim (Year 8)

Stage 5 (Years 9 and 10):

Tony Gahan - Deputy Stage 5, Fiona Ackerman - HT Stage 5
Year Advisors - Ayako Hirata and Daniel Wood (Year 9) and Gail Papilos and Alan Toner (Year 10)

Stage 6 (Year 11 and 12):

Colette Longley - Deputy Stage 6, John Feros - HT Stage 6
Year Advisors - Reece Watson and Jo Leto (Year 11) and Kate Plunkett and Martin Garner (Year 12)

If you need support for your child then please email the school (attention who you would like contacted) or ring a member of the wellbeing team. Also we have two Learning and Support Teachers - Neryl O'Neill and Rosemary Zamberlan who are available to help those students on learning plans and we have literacy and numeracy support available for our students.

It may take some time for some of our students to re-adapt to school and we will be working with families to ensure a positive transition.

So a reminder that on Monday 11 May, Year 12 will return to full time face to face learning. Note there will be no before or after school classes for this week. Every other year will have an assigned day for that year group to return. Specifically; Year 11 on Monday, Year 7 on Tuesday, Year 8 on Wednesday, Year 9 on Thursday and Year 10 on Friday. Assuming Phase 1 of transition back to school continues in the week commencing Monday 18 May; we will follow the same days for each year group as already stated.

Students will have different lessons however as 11 May is an A week and 18 May is a B week. We will hold wellbeing meetings at the start and end of each day for Years 7-11.

Some of you will have received letters from the school relating to work that has not been completed and submitted by your student. This is the school maintaining our responsibility to let you know

areas that your student is possibly neglecting during this time as well as an opportunity for the student to ensure that the work completed has been submitted so that all students are keeping up to date with their learning.

However if the non-completion of work relates to a wellbeing issue please contact the school directly as indicated above.

Regarding next week, the school will have in place hygiene measures including sanitiser as well as markings around the school to ensure social distancing. I have mentioned previously that ball games will not be permitted.

Year 11 and 12 are usually allowed into the shopping centre at recess and lunch but for week 3 (next week) for the protection of both students and staff we will not be allowing this to take place. Therefore students will need to buy their lunch at the canteen or before they enter the school or bring their lunch from home.

All work for Years 7-11 will be prepared for online learning. So students will continue to receive work via Google classroom or Zoom or the other learning platforms being used. The time with their teacher at school will be for explanations of online work, a chance to answer questions and provide support.

Can I remind parents that they are not to attend Zoom lessons. These are specifically for children in the class. If parents need to contact their child's teacher please email or ring the school.

Interestingly, the Elevate session that I mentioned in an earlier email was so successful with so many attendees that the team are running a second webinar. They state:

Due to unprecedented demand, we will be running another webinar next Tuesday, May 12th which will focus on time management, organisation and beating procrastination.

Event Title: Elevate Education – Time Management and Organisational Secrets

Date: Tuesday 12th May

Time: 6pm

Cost: Free

Sign-Up Link: <https://www.elevatecoaching.info/parent-webinar-aus-time-management>

Finally I would like to thank each and every one of you for the forbearance and support you have shown during this difficult time. As we move to the next Phase which promises a gradual return to the "new normal" it is still a time to be mindful of what has been achieved and will continue to be achieved as we all work together.

Regards

Susan

Susan Wyatt
Principal
Mosman High School