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

We're excited about our return to face-to-face learning on Monday 25 October 2021, 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.
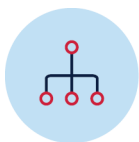
It must have been a difficult period for our newly arrived families and students to have to adjust to remote learning due to a snap lockdown from the 26 June 2021, announced by the NSW government. The strict restrictions are essential to minimise health risks from the highly contagious COVID-19 Delta strain of virus.

We have a lot of catching up to do now that it is deem safe to return to school with vigilant control of the learning environment.

From the 25 October – 29 October, students will be segregated in their class groups for learning and break times. Teachers will be restricted in their movements around the school and will be supervising Google Classroom activities in class. It means they may be looking after classes that are not the usual assigned timetable.

All these precautions are to facilitate contact tracing, should a positive case of COVID-19 be detected.

The IEC will closely monitor the NSW Health Public Health Order and the NSW Department of Education COVID-19 Advice. We hope to return key learning areas teachers to their classrooms as soon as possible.

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 25 October – **IEC**

More information about Term 4 and the return to school is available at education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families

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.

Entry and exit to the school will be limited to the front gate on Walters Rd.

The back gate will be closed.

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.

IEC classrooms are:

42 – Room 27,   44 – Room 29   52 – Room 30   53 – Room 31

43 – Room 28

IEC Playground area – only the Top OVAL for Recess and Lunch

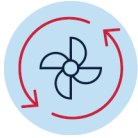# Mask wearing for students and staff

Masks are required to be worn on school site by staff indoors and for all staff and students in Year 7 and above in all indoor settings unless exercising or eating.

The school has supply of masks which will be kept in classrooms.

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.

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.

PE and SPORT will be organised as class groups.

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.