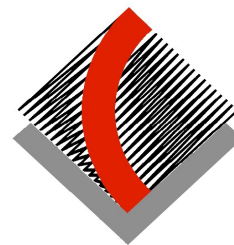


29 August 2021



COVID-19 Update

Dear Students, Parents/Caregivers,

By now I am sure that you would have all seen or heard last Friday's announcement regarding the government plans for the staged return to school of students.

To recap, Year 12 will return from October 25, the beginning of week 4, Year 11 the following week on November 1 and Year 7 to 10 from November 8 which is the beginning of week 6, Term 4. All of this is contingent on several factors including community vaccination rates and the number of COVID cases in our LGA.

If the return goes ahead as planned students will have to abide by strict conditions including the wearing of masks. All school staff must be fully vaccinated and adhere to strict social distancing guidelines. Further details will be provided as we get closer to the return dates.

Year 12 have been advised that the HSC written examinations will now commence on November 9. A revised timetable and details of how the school is to conduct the tests in a COVID safe manner will be released by NESA in mid-September.

How this will all be managed is yet to be determined and as you would understand a great deal of the school's planning is contingent upon other factors and NESA decisions that are yet to be made. Once the school has clarity, I will write to Year 12 families and hold a further Webinar allowing students and parents to pose questions. At this time, I hope to be able to provide details of graduation and how students will complete their final days of secondary schooling.

I am very conscious of the impact the delaying of the HSC may have on students and their families. However, it is crucial that rather than being downcast about this students stay positive and use the additional time to be even better prepared for their examinations.

What is clear for all students is learning from home will continue until at least late October and possibly beyond. Early next week students will be asked to complete a short survey indicating how they are coping. I encourage parents to support their children to complete the short survey as the results will provide valuable data for the school as we head into the next phase of the lockdown.

The school is acutely aware that the extended learning from home is very draining for all concerned. Consequently, following on from the overwhelming positive response to our **Pause for a Day** we have determined that a further day will be held next Friday, 3 September.

Once again, on this day students will not attend timetabled lessons. Instead, they will have the opportunity to participate in different activities that focus on their mental health and wellbeing.

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The link to the **CTHS Pause for a Day** will be sent out through CANVAS and the CTHS App on Thursday 2 September 2021. Please keep a look out. Most importantly our second CTHS Pause for a Day is about prioritising the mental health and wellbeing of our school community. We hope that all our students take the opportunity to relax, regroup and enjoy the activities on offer.

All students, 7 to 12 will be involved. Once again my sincere thanks are extended to Mrs Gatt and her team for this terrific initiative.

As we move forward, Year 11 students will have their assessment period in the final two weeks of term commencing Monday 6 September and running until Friday 17 September.

Finally, I remind you, student wellbeing remains an absolute priority for us all. Mr Hind, our Head Teacher Wellbeing, has provided details of the support available to students in a separate email to families. However, it is worth remembering that counsellor support is available, and we do have a specific CANVAS page for student wellbeing.

Thank you for your continued understanding during this very trying time. If you have questions or concerns relating to this update, please contact the school via email on cths@cths.nsw.edu.au.

Yours sincerely

Mr Gary Johnson
Principal