



Principal's Message

Welcome back to Term 2. I hope you were able to gain some relaxation over what was a very unusual holiday period. Thanks to all families who have provided our staff with positive feedback around the hard work they are undertaking. We realise that this has also been a particularly difficult time for families and students and we hope you are all keeping safe and well.

I would also like to thank families for their suggestions for improvement moving into Term 2. We have increased the use of Microsoft Teams in our courses now and this has proved successful already for students.

Communication will still be via email, however on the Website under Latest News we will publish all future correspondence to families. We will also place a link on our Facebook page for this.

This term will be another one of change and unfamiliarity as we navigate a phased return to face-to-face learning for our students, starting with one day per week for each student from Week 3.

Outlined in this document are the details of our campus's plan to safely manage phase 1 of this staged return. Our executive team have spent considerable time deliberating on this plan and we have had feedback from our P&C.

We are confident that we have a safe, consistent and equitable way to re-engage all our students with their learning this term.

Please don't hesitate to contact the school if you have any further questions, or contact individual teachers about specific work concerns.

Kind regards,

Hayley Macdonald
Principal

Week 1 and 2, 2020 (Phase 0 of staged return)

School remains open for all students of essential workers every day, as well as for families who have a special need or reason to attend school every day.

All other students will be engaged in remote learning until the end of Week 2.

From Week 3 (Phase 1 of staged return to school)*

- Students attend school one day per week based on their house group.
- School remains open for students of essential workers every day, as well as for families who have a special need or reason to attend school every day.
- Every Monday will be a pupil free day on campus to allow students to consolidate their learning, as well as complete and submit any unfinished tasks.
- Students continue learning online from home when not at school.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
FLEXIBLE LEARNING FROM HOME				

Playground areas for recess and lunch breaks:

Year 7: Harris St playground

Year 8: Canteen and COLA

Year 9: Main Quad

Year 10: Grassed Quad

*Future dates to be advised by NSW Department of Education.

WHEN AT SCHOOL

- Bring a device to school if you can so you can work online
- Bring your own food and drink (Canteen will be closed).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a staged return to face-to-face learning?

A staged return involves students being gradually reintroduced to face-to-face learning on campus starting from one day a week in Week 3 (phase 1), through to a full-time school (phase 4). For more details, download the [department's guide for families](#) of each phase of the staged return.

Why are we doing a staged return to school?

A staged return means there are a smaller number of students at school each day, providing more space to spread out. It helps to balance the varied needs of students and staff, their families, personal circumstances and workplaces. The flexibility also means we can quickly respond if there are any spikes in the spread of COVID-19.

How long will Phase 1 last?

Phase 1 will continue until we are advised by the NSW Department of Education to introduce a different phase for our campus. The phased approach has been designed to be flexible and responsive to the circumstances as they change.

What will phase 1 of the return look like at our campus?

From Tuesday 12 May, every student at Waratah Campus is expected to attend school one day per week, with up to 25% of students in attendance on any given day. This will be a rostered system based on students' House groups, with each student attending only on their designated day*.

No new work will be posted on Mondays for the duration of phase 1. Instead, Mondays will begin with an online assembly, followed by a pupil free day on campus to give staff a chance to check submitted work, monitor who is engaging online and determine who requires further support. Students will be expected to work from home on Mondays to consolidate their learning from the week before, complete and submit any unfinished tasks and check in with their learning page resources.

What can I expect when my child is at school?

- Students follow their normal timetabled classes and will see their classroom teachers for support and questions.
- Students will access the same work in the classroom as the students who are learning from home that day. They will just have more opportunity to clarify their work and ask for help from their teachers in person.
- Students will be in classes of 10 students or less. In large learning spaces (e.g. the library) there will be no more than 15 students at any one time.
- Each year group will be allocated a separate playground area for recess and lunch breaks and restricted movement of students around the school.
- Continued enhanced cleaning and hygiene supply arrangements, including cleaning of toilets and other high touch areas throughout the day, as well as supply of hand sanitiser in every classroom.
- Expectations of student behaviour (including hygiene expectations) will be addressed regularly and students unable to meet these expectations will move through our usual discipline process.

Do I have to send my child on their allocated day?

We need your support by sending your child on their designated day only, unless you are an essential worker. This way we will be able to manage the return of students safely and in a staggered way that supports the Department of Education's guidelines.

If you are particularly worried about your child attending school for one day per week, please contact Ms Macdonald to discuss your concerns.

What is being done to ensure the school is safe?

We continue to implement appropriate social distancing measures proportionate to health advice:

- Reduced numbers of students on campus each day
- No interschool competitions
- No 'in person' assemblies
- No excursions
- Limits to the numbers of students in learning spaces at any one time
- No parent access on school grounds
- Enhanced cleaning and hygiene arrangements

We encourage you to remain in your car when dropping off and picking up your child/children and to continue to contact the school via phone or email. We also ask for your continued support in keeping your child home if they are showing signs of being unwell.

*Please note: The school will remain open for all essential workers' children to access every day during the staged return, as well as for families who have a special need to attend school every day.