

Prairiewood High School

Principal Ms B Giudice

203-215 Restwell Rd, Prairiewood NSW 2176

Postal Address Locked Bag 46, Wetherill Park BC NSW 1851

Phone 02 9725 5444 Email prairiewoo-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

CRICOS NSW Department of Education CRICOS Provider Code 00588M www.deinternational.nsw.edu.au



TERM 2 2020 – ADVICE TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS ON THE CONTINUATION OF REMOTE LEARNING

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

Thank you for your support and understanding with the decision for schools to switch to remote learning as students learn from home. Please know that as a school we are committed to offering your child the best educational experience and I am very confident that our staff are more than ready to deliver remote learning. We have done our best to support our students so they can continue to learn effectively from home using online platforms and digital devices.

In addition to sending home this package, we have also created a [PHS Learn from Home website](#) which has a direct link from our school web page <https://prairiewoo-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/> We have a dedicated [COVID-19 Continuity of Learning page](#) on the school webpage which contains a range of information including Principal communications, online learning information, and wellbeing support information.

Prairiewood High School is committed to providing an active and engaging remote learning environment for all students and we have outlined our expectations and protocols which we expect all members of our school community to follow. In the attached booklet, we have included:

- Online Learning and Wellbeing Protocols for parents, students and teachers;
- Student Acceptable Use of Technology Agreement – this doesn't need to be signed or returned to school;
- Remote Bell Times & Student Timetable;
- Settling into a Remote Learning Routine;
- Google Classroom information – including Codes;
- Roll Call and Class Attendance processes; and
- "How to..." Support Guides for Google Classroom and Zoom (Video Conferencing)

Remote Learning at PHS

The [PHS Learn From Home](#) website has all the links to our digital learning platforms and other resources to support parents, students and staff with remote learning continuing for the beginning of Term 2, 2020. Our main online learning platform is Google Classroom which students can access via a laptop and their student portal. The other digital platforms we are also providing for students to access include:

- Education Perfect online lessons – Years 7-12 (*We are purchasing this – we should have this for a T2 start)
- Mathletics – Years 7-10
- EdRolo – Years 11 and 12 (*We are purchasing this – we should have this for a T2 start)

If your child does not have access to the tools they need to complete their remote online learning, please let us know as soon as possible. We will do our best to provide the supports needed to get your child up and running with remote online learning. If students require a laptop to use or internet access at home please contact the school on 9725-5444 so we can assist. Students can borrow laptops from the school to use at home.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our partnership with ABCN (Australian Business & Community Network), a not-for-profit organisation that connects business with education through mentoring and partnership programs, for their ongoing support. We have been selected for the Optus 'Donate Your Data' program which was offered last term and we will also be receiving 100 laptops from Accenture to support students in years 10 to 12. Our Careers Advisor (Mrs Evans) has been in contact with students. Please contact the school if you would like to know more about this program.

What's happening with student assessment and school reports?

Into Term 2, teachers will continue to formatively assess student learning outcomes based on individual student's completion and submission of work in Google Classrooms. The Department of Education have indicated that they will make decisions about Semester One reporting early term two. When this is communicated, we will share this with you. It is anticipated Year 12 reports will be distributed in the first few weeks of Term Two. This will reflect Term 4 2019 and Term 1 2020 work. We anticipate school reports to look differently this semester in light of the dramatic shift to online learning.

What's happening with the HSC?

Prairiewood High School will continue to monitor and act on advice from the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) in relation to the HSC. At a meeting on 24/3/2020, the NESA COVID-19 Response Committee indicated the 2020 HSC will go ahead and it had three important messages for HSC students:

1. We know you are worried. While we recognise we are facing an unprecedented situation, we want to assure you that you will be able to get a HSC certificate this year, and that the certificate will facilitate access to university, further education and employment, as it has for students over the past 50 years.
2. Keep learning, do your assessments as advised by your school, make progress on your major projects where you can and, most importantly, look after yourself, whether you are at school or at home. Reach out to family, friends and your teachers if you need to.
3. If you get sick, your school and NESA have provisions to ensure you are not disadvantaged.

Effective immediately the Board is giving principals or system authorities the power to make decisions about the number and weighting of HSC formal assessment tasks for their school in 2020. The Board affirms its complete trust in principals and teachers. (Source: <https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/about/news/media-releases/media-release-detail/2020-hsc-is-going-ahead>)

We will be reviewing our HSC assessment schedule early next term and will communicate with Year 12 students and their parents/carers regarding any amendments.

What will a typical day of remote learning look like?

Students are expected to be out of bed, dressed appropriately and logged into their Attendance Check-in Google Classroom each morning at approximately 8.30am. Students must log into their Department of Education email every day before 8.45am and check for important information and updates before remote learning begins.

Our school day will now be divided into three learning block sessions for years 7 to 10; senior students will continue their normal timetable. Recess and lunch breaks will remain the same time; however, we have introduced a 10-minute rest break during each learning block session, in consideration of screen time and the effect this can have on students. We have scheduled in Sport sessions; however, we do encourage 60 minutes or more of daily physical activity, as per the Department of Health's Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines for Young People (13–17 Years).

What if students are absent from class?

We understand online learning allows for flexibility in terms of when students log on and complete work and this will be monitored. Attendance is regulated through the completion of online tasks and having an online presence. Students are required to log into their Attendance Classroom to mark themselves present for each lesson.

If students are absent from the Google Classroom for the day, parents are expected to ring the school on 9725-5444 in the morning so their teachers can be informed. If a teacher is absent, the work will still be scheduled in Google Classroom for completion. We have arranged student learning around a 'pod' model, meaning that there will be a range of teachers responsible for the design, delivery and marking of Google Classroom work. In a remote learning model, there will be occasions where teachers are online at the time of lessons and there will be other occasions that are self-paced and where no teacher will be online. Through our pod model, we will attempt for teachers to be available to respond to questions during the scheduled lesson timeslot.

What about my child's Wellbeing during COVID-19?

To support the mental health and wellbeing of students at home, we also have set up an online Wellbeing Google Classroom for each year group. This can be accessed through Google Classroom like other classes. Students in Years 7 to 10 will participate in a weekly Wellbeing lesson, led by our Wellbeing Hub coordinator, Ms Bond. Our school counsellors can also be contacted through the school for individual appointments and consultations as required. The Department of Education provides the following advice to parents/carers: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-from-home/advice-to-parents-and-carers/supporting-wellbeing>

Communicating with us?

We do encourage you to keep up to date with all communications through the school's website. Many important messages will be shared through the school's social media accounts – Facebook, SkoolBag App as examples. If you wish to contact us, please contact the school directly through phone (9725-5444) or email (prairiewoo-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au). Our friendly Administration staff will organize to forward on any communications. Our staff will find a time to talk to you when they can give you their full attention. Please remember that while our staff are on class or dealing with other matters, they may not be available to answer your questions immediately. As many of our staff are working remotely, telephone appointment times will be made (where possible). With over 1200 students, the school will decide who which person is best to return your call This may be a class teacher, a Head Teacher, a Year Advisor, a Community Liaison Officer, your child's Deputy Principal, one of the School Psychologist's or the Principal.

Have a well-deserved Easter Break and Stay Safe, Healthy & Happy

COVID-19 brings a new layer of stress in the fabric of our very community. May I acknowledge the fact that some of our families are experiencing loss of employment; many are experiencing the stress of the whole family being underfoot day after day; and most are simply struggling with the challenge of a changed world - of isolation and uncertainty. We have reached out to numerous community organisations and are here to help. If, for example, you would like some assistance with food support, please reach out to us. All contact made will be confidential.

I would like to conclude by acknowledging all the hard work and effort of the teaching and non-teaching staff who willingly and openly took on the challenge of the last few weeks and just made it happen. I am very proud of the way our staff, students and our community have come together at a time when we need to stay apart.

Thank you for your ongoing support, please stay safe and take care of your loved ones. Wishing our students a well deserved Term One holiday break!

Kind Regards,



Belinda Giudice
Principal