

Prairiewood High School



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TERM 2 2020 – ADVICE TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS ON PHASE 1 RETURN TO SCHOOL FROM MONDAY MAY 11

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

Thank you for your cooperation during this challenging time of remote learning! Students are participating in lessons and completing work, and we thank our parents and carers for partnering with us to ensure our students continue to learn at Prairiewood High School.

We are now preparing to welcome our students back onto our grounds next week from **Monday, 11 May**. This is in line with the Phase 1 Return to School model being implemented by the NSW Department of Education. Students will attend school one day a week and learn from home on the other days. The Department of Education explains the phased return on the website here:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families/managed-return-to-school-guide-for-families>.

Phase 1 Return to School from May 11 at PHS

Year 7 - Return ONLY on **Mondays**

Year 8 - Return ONLY on **Wednesdays**

Year 9 - Return ONLY on **Tuesdays**

Year 10 - Return ONLY on **Thursdays**

Year 11 - Return ONLY on **Fridays**

Year 12 – Return on **Friday Week A and Friday Week B AND Thursday only in Week B**. Yr 12 may also attend **Mondays A Periods 3 – 6 and Mondays B Periods 5 -6 to do Major Works and get study support**.

Students should bring their or any school-loaned device fully charged, as learning will continue on-line. Student should also bring any exercise books or text books they were using for that subject prior to COVID-19 and the usual equipment. If anything else is required, teachers will advise students on Google Classroom, so they are prepared for their “at school” learning.

Families who need to send their child to school every day may continue to do so and no child will be turned away. Please stay in your car when dropping students and do not enter the school unless you have an appointment. All communication with the school should be by telephone and email.

TIMETABLES for Return to School

Years 7-10

Years 7-10 will follow their [NEW TIMETABLES](#) as outlined on the [Learning From Home Website](#). When students attend school they will be working on-line, on exactly the same unit of work as they were working on when they were learning remotely. They will probably not have their usual teachers and they will be in different classrooms from their old timetables. There will be a teacher in each room but with fewer students. On the days when students are not at school they are to continue learning remotely following the same timetable as they do on their “at school” days.

Students in Years 7-10 will engage in three lessons per day. Each lesson is a 'Learning Block' the same length as 2 x 50 min periods, and normal recess and lunch times are scheduled. A typical day is 3 lessons, for example: Maths, English and a new lesson called **Re-Connect and Belong**. The purpose of **Re-Connect and Belong** is to allow students to participate in an activity of their own choosing as they reconnect with school, their friends and teachers.

During the **Re-Connect and Belong** Learning Block, they will select an activity in which they would like to engage. A range of activities have been planned and the suite of activities from which they can select may vary each week.

Years 11 & 12

Years 11 and 12 will follow their slightly adjusted timetable as they have been doing since the beginning of this term. The new line structure can be found [here](#) and their timetables were emailed to them last week. Their classroom may change, but mostly, they will have their regular teacher and they will continue with the lessons they have been completing whilst learning remotely. Every effort will be made to reinstate practical lessons where possible, whilst abiding by social distancing requirements. Teachers will advise students during Google Classroom lessons if they need to bring anything for practical lessons.

Expectations to ensure health and safety of all students and staff

Safety is a priority during the COVID 19 pandemic. Students will be expected to behave in a responsible way, which recognises the importance of protecting the health of themselves, their peers and staff, who are at higher risk of COVID 19. A few teachers will be working from home due to higher levels of vulnerability to COVID 19.

Students will be expected to:

- Stay home when unwell. Parents must not send students to school if they are feeling unwell. If a student is unwell during the school day, they will not be able to remain in the clinic. Parents will be expected to collect unwell students from school.
(It would be appreciated if as an additional precaution, students' temperatures are checked before leaving for school)
- Assist in keeping classroom desks and school equipment clean as directed by the teacher. This will include students regularly wiping down their workspaces for their safety.
- Engage in regular handwashing, especially before eating during breaks
- Not share drinks or food – bring a water bottle as bubblers will be out of action and only bottle refill stations operating
- Remain 1.5 m apart from other students wherever possible – this can be maintained in the classroom for students in Years 7 – 10. All efforts to maximise distancing will occur for Years 11 and 12.
- Maintain social distancing in corridors and when queuing – floor markings outside key areas, where appropriate
- Bring all their own equipment including pens, calculators, BYOD with charger, glue and anything else needed as there will be no sharing amongst students
- Cough or sneeze into their elbows if necessary to avoid spreading infection. Avoid touching the face.

- Use soap, sanitisers and other health items in a responsible manner – ideal to bring own sanitiser
- Not participate in ball games, except hand ball, during break times due to infection risk

If we all adhere to these guidelines we can be confident in this phased return to school. In addition, we have hand sanitisers in each classroom. Furthermore, additional cleaning is being undertaken with special attention to cleaning of desks, doorknobs, bathrooms and other high touch surfaces.

Students who do not adhere to these health and safety requirements will be reminded of our expectations and the school discipline code.

Transport

School buses will be running at normal times before and after school.

Uniform

Students are expected to wear their full school uniform on the days they attend. In the colder weather make sure you purchase items to keep you warm that are part of the uniform (eg long school pants and PHS jackets). Parent contact and follow-up will occur if students attend out of uniform.

Canteen

The canteen will operate with limited food options available. Bottled drinks will be sold. We do encourage where possible, parents to provide food and water for their child/children.

Your Q and A

Do I have to send my child back to school or do I have the option to continue remote Home Learning?

The government and Department of Education are encouraging students to return according to each school's Phase 1 Plan. We believe it is in the interests of students' learning and wellbeing. However it is not compulsory. Please notify the school clearly stating your child's name and year group if you intend them not to return.

Can I change my child's day of attending school?

No, year group coordination enables us to manage a complex and challenging variation of routine.

Can you clarify how students' learning will proceed?

In Phase 1 all classes are still set up to support remote learning. Whether at school or at home, students in Years 7 to 10 will be engaging in the on-line work during class time. On their designated day, students can seek clarification and assistance in class time from the supervising teacher. For Years 11 & 12 students there will be more direct and explicit teaching in the lesson, but work will still be available on-line for students unable to attend.

We look forward to welcoming our students back.

Kind Regards,



Belinda Giudice
Principal