

Prairiewood High School

Principal Ms B Giudice

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Dear Parent / Carer,

I hope you had a welcome change of pace over the holiday break and some time together without having to balance learning from home with other demands.

Term 4 returns with learning from home

As our school is in an LGA that is still under stay-at-home rules we will continue to learn from home for the start of Term 4. It is important that you continue to keep your children home if you are able to work from home. While we are planning for our return to face-to-face learning and our teachers are completing their COVID-19 vaccinations there will only be minimal supervision for students on site and all students will be provided with the same work as they would be completing at home.

I know we are all excited about the coming freedoms available to those who are fully vaccinated in NSW but I ask every family to hold on just a few weeks more to give us the time we need to complete our planning for your child's safe return.

Return to school roadmap for Term 4

In Term 4, where stay-at-home rules are still in place but high community vaccination and low transmission conditions are met, students will return to school in a staggered approach for prioritised cohorts, with no mingling or on-site activities.

In the majority of schools students will return to face-to-face learning with NSW Health-approved COVID-safe [Level 3 plus](#) settings on school sites in the following order as announced by the Premier on 30 September:

- From 18 October 2021: Preschool, Kindergarten and Year 1
- From 25 October 2021: Years 2, 6 and 11
- From 1 November 2021: Years 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

The return to school roadmap is subject to change depending on new information expected through the Public Health Order and additional advice from NSW Health. You can stay up to date with the most recent advice on our [Advice for families page](#).

For those families who have siblings across year groups I know it will be difficult to keep some at home while others are back on site. But to re-iterate the message above – we need this time to prepare our school and operations for having all our students back so it's essential that you only send your children to school in line with our set plan.

HSC

From the beginning of Term 4, Year 12/HSC students can continue to attend school for revision, learning and wellbeing support and to have access to their teachers in a limited way via Study Bubbles. From Wednesday 6th October, HSC students will be able to attend school for **up to three hours a day, five days a week** for the following reasons:

- revision and wellbeing support
- participating in small group face-to-face learning with a supervising teacher to enable course revision
- for study with your peers in an organised peer study bubble.

A study bubble should:

- Be group of no more than 5 students from within the same daily scheduled groupings or study sessions. You should not mingle or move between groups during the day.
- Occur outdoors or in a well ventilated indoor open space such as a school hall or library.

From Wednesday 6 October students will need to register **BY 2.30pm** for subsequent days. There will be a morning bubble (8.30-11.30) and an afternoon bubble (11.30 – 2.30). Students may only attend **ONE** bubble per day.

From 18 October, all Year 12 students will have a new face-to-face timetable, which will be provided closer to the date, for revision sessions with their teachers. This will support them in the lead up to their exams.

HSC exams will proceed for all students from 9 November 2021 in a COVID-safe way, in line with NSW Health advice.

Vaccinations for students aged 12 years and over

Young people aged 12 years and over are now also eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. You can [book in your children for Pfizer now](#), or Moderna where indicated there is availability.

[Vaccination appointments](#) are available at more than 3,000 locations across NSW, including GPs and pharmacies. More appointments will become available as supply increases, so keep checking for new appointments in coming weeks.

Learning from Home

For families who are continuing to learn from home, [the learning from home page](#) has a wide range of curriculum-based activities to further support your child's learning, if needed.

Thank you again for your understanding and support during what is going to be both an exciting, but also an anxious time over the coming Term.

Please take some time to check out our [wellbeing resources for students and families](#). You'll find useful tools for mental health and Term 4 preparation. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can do anything to help you and your children to prepare for the return to face-to-face learning or if you have any concerns about the return to school. Our school [COVID-19 Wellbeing page](#) also has help and a [school referral form](#) if you or your child needs mental health assistance.

We are spending the first week back at school finalising our COVID-safe plans for a return to face-to-face learning and I hope to share these plans with you in the coming weeks.

Kind regards



Ms Belinda Giudice
Principal