

Prairiewood High School

Principal Ms B Giudice

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Dear Parents / Carers,

At this difficult time for everyone in NSW, it is important that you are kept up to date with the latest developments on how the NSW Department of Education is continuing to support schools, students, and families.

First, a big thank you to every family for your efforts to support learning from home for your children. We acknowledge the experience for every family will be different. The connection between the school, teacher, you and our students is vital to ensure that everyone feels supported. Even in a learning from home environment, these connections can have a profound impact on the learning that continues to take place.

The department is working very closely with NSW Health as the restrictions and the stay-at-home orders change. The clear messaging from Health, at this current time, is that families should be keeping children at home unless it is absolutely necessary that they need to attend school. Please refer to the [COVID-19 page](#) as it is constantly being updated and outlines the restrictions in our schools, as well as other useful information and resources to keep you up to date and supported. [Fairfield Council's website](#) also has excellent COVID-19 advice and wellbeing support if required.

R U OK? Day 9 September

The Wellbeing Team are acknowledging the R U Ok? theme during this Friday's Day 10 lesson (3/9/21). As a follow-up to the day, next Thursday (9/9/21) will be a day of **no formal lessons** for Years 7 to 10. This is in response to student and parent feedback around the importance of students' virtually connecting with their friends, catching up on class work, and looking after their own wellbeing. There will be some self-paced activities and challenges on the Years 7-10 Google Classrooms. Year 11 and 12 students will continue their assessment block as planned. If your child needs wellbeing assistance, please contact the school or complete the [PHS Wellbeing Referral form](#). Other information is available at the [Wellbeing Support During COVID webpage](#).

Learning from Home

All schools across NSW are now implementing their Learning from Home programs and PHS will be doing this until Fairfield is no longer an "Area of Concern". The department's [learning from home page](#) has a wide range of curriculum-based activities to further supplement your child's learning if required. Our students should be accessing their Google Classrooms and online work from the [PHS Learning From Home](#) page.

In order to reduce stress and manage the learning from home workload, there will be no junior assessments due in Term 3. Year 12 are currently completing assessment tasks to replace the Trial Exams and Year 11 will complete their tasks, which replaced the Yr 11 Yearly Exams, in Weeks 9 and 10. Consequently, Year 12 reports will be delayed slightly to allow more time for students to complete assessment tasks and have them marked. Year 11 and 12 reports will be released to students and families next term. More information about Year 7-10 reporting will occur early next term and semester reports will reflect the learning from home experience.

Return to school

As always, student and staff safety is our number one priority. Whilst Fairfield LGA remains an Area of Concern, all students will still be learning from home. However, if Fairfield is no longer an area of concern, the plan is that there will be a gradual return of year groups to school. The plan, assuming Fairfield meets the vaccination and transmission conditions by these dates, is that students will return to face-to-face learning with NSW Health-approved COVID-safe settings on school sites in the following order:

- from 25 October – **Kindergarten and Year 1 and Year 12**
- from 1 November – **Years 2, 6 and 11**
- from 8 November – **Years 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10.**

HSC Students

There has been a large focus on supporting our Year 12 students and how they are navigating their way to receiving their HSC. There is new information regarding the HSC being released every week so it is important that parents and students access this information on the department's [HSC Hub](#). The HSC exams will now begin on 9 November.

Thank you again for your understanding and support of our school, please do not hesitate to reach out if we can do anything to assist you and your family to help us all get through these challenging times. We will continue to keep you informed through [facebook](#), [Instagram](#), our [website](#) and Skoolbag ([sign up to the Skoolbag App](#)), so please check these places regularly.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Belinda Giudice

Principal