

Prairiewood High School



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INFORMATION UPDATE FOR HSC STUDENTS

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to the students and parents who completed the survey late last week on Preparing for Student Return to School and Assessment.

As you know, the Premier has recently announced the Government's intention to return Year 12 students to school sites from 16 August.

Current Department of Education advice indicates HSC students throughout NSW (including in Greater Sydney) may attend school to:

- participate in scheduled face-to-face learning (if required) to enable course completion and revision
- participate in COVID-safe trial written and oral exams (if required)
- participate in performance rehearsals (where only students who are required for the performance should attend, and only in their own performance groups)
- complete work on a practical task where specialist equipment is required (such as a major design project).

HSC students in Greater Sydney are not permitted to attend school for study groups, and other activities at school that can be conducted online.

Given the COVID outbreak within the Fairfield LGA and considering this advice above, as well as the survey results of the school community, we have made the decision to **cancel the Trial HSC exams** for Year 12 students. Most courses will be **offering alternative tasks as the final assessment**, with the priority being an online task, as opposed to one on-site.

During Week 6 (August 16th – 20th), students with HSC major works that are due, will be provided with the opportunity to work with specialist teachers on-site, if they choose. This will be supported by the NESA COVID-19 Special Consideration program: <https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/covid-19/coronavirus-advice/hsc-%20exams-and-major-projects>. Online, timetabled classes will continue during this time, as we focus on the completion of practical HSC works that have been impacted severely, during the current remote learning period.

We will release the updated assessment schedule soon. It will highlight tasks that are due across the Week 7 and 8 assessment period, instead of Trial Exams (23rd August – 3rd September). During this period most tasks will be completed on-line via remote learning, however, some tasks are being planned for on-site completion and details will be provided as we approach Week 8.

This decision balances the health and academic outcomes for students as they approach the HSC exams. It is also reflective of the decisions of a range of other local schools.

When the school is informed about the Government's plan, linked to other announcements such as vaccinations beginning on August 9th and the implications of rapid antigen testing, I will be in contact again as a priority.

Thank you for your patience and support.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Belinda Giudice
Principal