



Covid-19 Update 1 October- Term 4 arrangements and return of students

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that the past two weeks have provided an opportunity to reset and refresh after a challenging term.

As you would be aware, earlier this week, the Chief Health Officer and Chief Minister have released the pathway and guidelines for schools to enable students to return to face-to-face learning for Term 4. The health and safety of students, staff and families, remains our number one priority and the current public health advice will continue to guide our decisions. There is a great deal of detail in this update, however, I would encourage you to persevere and continue reading, with your student, to enable the safe return to face-to-face learning.

Please continue to monitor the ACT Covid-19 website for the most up to date information in relation to restrictions and Covid-19 exposure locations/sites <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/> . For those families living in regional NSW, please also consult the NSW website <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19> .

As we return to face-to-face learning, can I reiterate that should your student be unwell and experiencing cold and flu symptoms, they should not be attending on site, face-to-face, learning. Likewise, if a student or member of their immediate household has visited a listed exposure site, please ensure that the advice of ACT or NSW Health in relation to testing and isolation is followed.

Timeline for return to face-to-face learning:

Year 12 Students

- At this stage, pending no further changes to the advice from the ACT Government or ACT Health, all Year 12 students are able to return for face-to-face learning on **Tuesday 5 October**.
- From Week 13, teachers of Year 12 will only be expected to deliver their lessons in a face-to-face format. Families of those students who are not able to return to face-to-face learning should contact the Pastoral Leader to put in place arrangements that facilitate the continuation of their learning. Under the current ACT Health Orders, all Year 12 students will be required to bring and wear masks whilst at the College.
- Students will also be required to regularly wash and sanitise their hands and physically distance where possible.
- As we will still be under lockdown restrictions, Year 12 students will not be able to leave the College during the day until after their final lesson for Weeks 11 and 12. This will enable us to minimise the likelihood of students visiting an exposure location.
- The College canteen will be open for student to access with card payments preferred.
- The student carpark will be extended for Weeks 11 and 12 to enable the majority of students to be able to park onsite. Once the lockdown restrictions have been lifted, the student parking will revert to the usual numbers.
- The AST Tests will be held on Tuesday 12 October and Wednesday 13 October under strict Covid-safe protocols. Further information will be distributed to Year 12 students about the arrangements for the tests during Week 11. The AST Tests are administered and supervised by the ACT BSSS. As a College we are bound by the processes and procedures set by the BSSS which apply to all ACT Colleges.

Year 11 Students

- Pending no further changes to the advice from the ACT Government or ACT Health, all Year 11 students are able to return for face-to-face learning on **Monday 18 October**.

- Classes for Week 11 and Week 12 will continue online for Year 11 students. This includes Year 11 and 12 combined classes.
- From Week 13, teachers of Year 11 will only be expected to deliver their lessons in a face-to-face format. Families of those students who are not able to return to face-to-face learning should contact the Pastoral Leader to put in place arrangements that facilitate the continuation of their learning.
- Period 6 classes will resume as scheduled timetabled lessons from the beginning of Term 4. Students are expected to attend their Period 6 classes from **Tuesday 5 October**.
- Under the current ACT Health Orders, all Year 11 students will be required to bring and wear masks whilst at the College. Students will also be required to regularly wash and sanitise their hands and physically distance where possible.

Year 9 and 10 Students

- Pending no further changes to the advice from the ACT Government or ACT Health, all Year 9 and 10 students are able to return for face-to-face learning on **Monday 25 October**.
- Classes for Weeks 11-13 will continue online for Years 9 and 10 students following the timetable that was in place at the end of Term 3, PT-Period 5. There will be no Teams meetings scheduled in Period 6 for Weeks 11-13.
- The full timetable will operate for Year 9 and 10 students when they return to face-to-face learning in Week 14.
- From Week 14, teachers of Year 9 and 10 will only be expected to deliver their lessons in a face-to-face format. Families of those students who are not able to return to face-to-face learning should contact the Pastoral Leader to put in place arrangements that facilitate the continuation of their learning.
- Under the current ACT Health Orders, all Year 9 and 10 students will be required to bring and wear masks whilst at the College. Students will also be required to regularly wash and sanitise their hands and physically distance where possible.

Year 7 and 8 Students

- Pending no further changes to the advice from the ACT Government or ACT Health, all Year 7 and 8 students are able to return for face-to-face learning on **Monday 1 November**.
- Classes for Weeks 11-14 will continue online for Years 7 and 8 students following the timetable that was in place at the end of Term 3, PT-Period 5. There will be no Teams meetings scheduled in Period 6 for Weeks 11-14.
- The full timetable will operate for Year 7 and 8 students when they return to face-to-face learning in Week 15.
- From Week 15, all teachers will only be expected to deliver their lessons in a face-to-face format. Families of those students who are not able to return to face-to-face learning should contact the Pastoral Leader to put in place arrangements that facilitate the continuation of their learning.
- Under the current ACT Health Orders, all Year 7 and 8 students will be required to bring and wear masks whilst at the College. Students will also be required to regularly wash and sanitise their hands and physically distance where possible.

Student Wellbeing and Support:

As we gradually return to face-to-face learning, the wellbeing of our students remains a priority. We appreciate that returning to school may cause anxiety for some students. The following arrangements will be in place from the start of Term 4 to support all of our students:

- The school counsellors will continue to be available, either on site or via MS Teams. Bookings can be made [HERE](#).
- Pastoral Leaders (PCA's or House Coordinators), including the Assistant Principals Pastoral Care, are available to provide support for students and families. Prior to 1 November, when all students and staff are back on site, not all Pastoral Leaders will be onsite each day. All Pastoral Leaders will be available each day either in-person, via MS Teams or email.
- Students will be asked to continue filling out the PT check-in survey so that Pastoral Leaders can monitor the wellbeing of all students and respond to students who need additional support.
- The number of staff working in the Inclusive Education Team has increased for Term 4 to support a greater number of students requiring assistance with their learning.

Face Masks:

Under the current health orders, the wearing of face masks is mandatory for all staff and students. If your student is unable to wear a mask due to medical reasons, please contact your student's Pastoral Leader, as well as the relevant Assistant Principal Pastoral Care. Contact details for Pastoral Leaders can be found [HERE](#). Students will need to bring their own masks and should bring several to use as required throughout the day. Guidance on appropriate face masks and their correct use can be found [HERE](#).

Pre-existing medical conditions:

Please also contact the relevant Pastoral Leader if your student has a prior or existing medical condition that is not Covid-related but may give them similar symptoms. For example, a student who has a persistent cough from asthma. Students unable to wear a mask on medical grounds and those who have a pre-existing medical condition that is not Covid-related will be issued a pass by their Pastoral Leader. This can be shown when required to alleviate staff and student concerns.

Students or visitors with Covid-19 symptoms:

As has been our request previously, please keep your student at home when they are sick or unwell. Students who are unwell must not attend the College and should stay home and are encouraged to get tested. If any member of our community attends school while unwell, they will be sent home. In circumstances where staff or students have other medical reasons for recurrent symptoms, a letter from the GP is sufficient to allow return to school without a negative Covid test. While at school, students experiencing symptoms compatible with Covid-19 (e.g. fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath) will be directed to First Aid and will be isolated with appropriate suitable supervision and collected by a parent/carer as soon as possible.

Student Vaccinations:

As per the public health advice, we encourage vaccination for all eligible students and ask their families to consider the ACT Health advice regarding vaccines. Please speak with your GP regarding any specific circumstances your student or family may have. Under the current health guidelines students are not required to be vaccinated to return to face-to-face learning with their cohort.

Parents/carers on site:

Under the current guidelines, the College must limit the number of external adults, including parents and carers who are onsite. Parents and carer are requested not to enter the school site unless it is an emergency. If you are collecting your student for an appointment, we would ask that you wait in the carpark and provide a signed note for your student.

Essential worker student supervision of Online Learning:

Students of **Essential Workers only** may continue to attend to complete their Online Learning during Weeks 11-14. We would ask that parents ensure that they register their student/s who need to attend the College by completing the following form found [HERE](#).

It is vital that any student attending is registered, preferably the week before, to allow for adequate planning time for staffing of supervision.

Students will be provided with basic supervision while they access their learning online with the other members of their classes.

Essential Worker's students attending the College in person during Weeks 11-14 are asked to be present by 8.45am and to meet in the main foyer next to Reception each day to be signed in.

Canteen facilities will be available on site (card payments preferred) and students are strongly encouraged not to visit Dickson shops on their way to and from school due to the number of casual Covid-19 exposure sites that have occurred there.

Assessment:

As mentioned in the last correspondence, to meet the challenges posed by a disrupted semester, teachers will continue to make changes when needed to assessment schedules and assessment items.

In Years 7 - 10, the number of formal assessment items required this semester will be reduced. As changes are made teachers will update Daranet.

In Years 11 and 12, there has been no change to the advice previously distributed regarding school based assessment.

If students (Years 7-12), wish to request an extension for an assessment task they are reminded to use the form available via the Teaching and Learning tab in Daranet.

Students residing in NSW:

We have been advised by ACT Health that students who live in the following 10 postcodes have been granted a standing exemption to enter the ACT to attend school from the Chief Health Officer.

Postcodes	Included cities, townships and areas
2581	Gunning, Collector
2582	Murrumbateman, Yass
2584	Binalong
2611	Uriarra
2618	Walleroo, areas along the ACT's north-western edge
2619	Jerrabomberra
2620	Queanbeyan, Googong, Karabar, Sutton, Gundaroo, Royalla
2621	Bungendore
2623	Captains Flat
2626	Bredbo and Michelago

The Q City / Transborder buses have been operating as per usual during the current lockdown. However, families are encouraged to check the current timetable arrangements that may be in place prior to the return to school.

We are aware that there are students who live outside of these postcodes. Once we have been advised by ACT Health as to the exemption process for these students, we will contact individual students and their families.

Transport Canberra buses:

Transport Canberra will resume all dedicated school bus services from **Monday 25 October**. In Weeks 11-14, students will be able to travel to school using the current interim network. Further details can be found on the Transport Canberra website <https://www.transport.act.gov.au/>.

College Canteen:

The College canteen will reopen on **Tuesday 5 October** for students and staff to access. Card only payments are preferred.

Pre-ordering of items through Daranet is encouraged from Week 14 onwards.

The decision to reopen the canteen is based on the current lockdown restrictions so as to minimise the movement of students and staff to potential Covid-19 exposure sites.

Uhr Information Centre:

The IC will be open from 8:30am – 3:30pm initially with the staged return of students. There will be mandatory sanitising of hands, mask wearing, limits on the number of students seated at each desk and the requirement to sanitise tables after each use. Students will be able to borrow books when they are on site and measures have been put in place to reduce contact for these processes.

Increased hygiene and ventilation:

Increased cleaning schedules throughout the school day will continue. Each classroom, bathroom and common student area will have stocks of hand sanitiser for students to access. Use of hand sanitiser will be required as students enter their classes. This will be combined with the use of cleaning materials and equipment to ensure that desks are cleaned between classes. The College has also undergone a deep clean prior to students returning. All College learning and common spaces have been assessed to increase fresh air circulation, and air conditioning systems have been adjusted to meet the requirements outlined by the Chief Health Officer to maximise air circulation.

Financial Support:

Families who are experiencing changed financial circumstances due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, are encouraged to contact the College Business Manager, Hugh Boulter, to discuss support that may be available to you. He can be contacted via email on hugh.boulter@daramalan.act.edu.au.

Uniform Shop:

The College Uniform Shop remains closed until the Lockdown restrictions are lifted on Friday 15 October. However, the process for ordering uniform items for contactless collection is available on the College website. Under the current restrictions, there is no ability to try items for sizing before purchase. Families will be notified once this service is able to be offered again.

Collection of Resources and Items from the College:

Considering the extension to the ACT lockdown the College is offering students a brief opportunity to collect essential items from their locker in order to continue working from home for an extended period. Families should only take up this offer to collect items that are essential for home learning to continue.

Details

- Tuesday 5 October 2021
- 2:30pm – 4:30pm
- Students only, parents are not able to collect items from the College
- Wearing of a mask is mandatory and entry is via Reception
- Students must sanitise their hands on entry and exit to the College
- Must sign in using the CBR App

Whilst the return to face-to-face learning is pleasing news, we understand that many families will continue to face many challenges over the coming weeks. Should families not feel comfortable for their student to return to face-to-face learning with their cohort due to medical or other family circumstances please contact your student's Pastoral Leader to discuss the options that can be implemented to facilitate the continuation of their learning. Their contacts can be found on Daranet at [Pastoral Contact details](#).

I am looking forward to welcoming back our students over the coming weeks in their full summer uniform. I will continue to keep families updated during this transition period should circumstances change or need to be adjusted.

Best wishes

Rachel Davies

Principal

1 October 2021