



## **Covid-19 Update 30 October- Return of all students to face-to-face learning**

Dear Parents and Carers,

It will be wonderful to be able to welcome back the final year groups, Years 7 and 8, onsite next Monday 1 November for face-to-face learning. It has been almost 3 months since we have been together onsite as a community. I would like to thank the students in Years 9-12 for the manner in which they have followed the Covid-safe protocols that we have needed to implement to ensure the safety of our community over the past few weeks. I am sure that the Year 7 and 8 students will respond in the same manner so that we can remain onsite at school until the end of the year without needing to return to online learning.

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 onsite, face-to-face, learning. Likewise, if a student or member of their immediate household have been identified as attending an exposure location, please ensure that the advice of ACT or NSW Health in relation to testing and isolation is followed.

As restrictions ease across the ACT and regional NSW, and families begin to travel further afield, I would encourage you to continue to access the information available on the ACT Covid-19 website <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/> and the Service NSW Covid website <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>.

### **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.

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. As an additional measure, air purifier units have been installed in the Uhr Information Centre.

### **Distancing measures:**

- The current Health guidelines for schools require that as much as possible during break times that the mixing of student cohorts is minimised.
- Year groups will continue to be allocated to specific quad areas and sections of the College oval. These areas will be conveyed to students upon their return to school on Monday 1 November.
- A one-way system will also be operating in the McMahon Building to minimise congestion during the change of lesson times. This system will be clearly indicated to students via signage and arrows.

### **Staggered end to the school day:**

The end of the school day has been staggered to the times indicated below so as to spread out the number of students exiting the College at one time:

- Years 9 and 10: 3.20pm
- Years 7 and 8: 3.24pm
- Years 11 and 12: 3.27pm

Supervision of students who are waiting for buses will begin from 3:20pm.

### **Uniform:**

- To avoid large numbers of students needing to use the changerooms, Year 9 and 10 students, along with Year 8-10 Dance students are permitted to wear their PE uniform on the days they have practical lessons. The expectation is that students must wear the full Daramalan PE uniform. Students will need to ensure that they bring their leather school shoes for other practical classes such as Science, Food Technology and Design and Technology when they wear their PE uniform.

- Senior students and Year 7 and 8 students studying Physical Education are still required to change in and out of their school and PE uniforms.
- The College Uniform Shop has now reopened with distancing and density measures in place as per the current restrictions. The opening times are available on the College website.

#### **Face Masks:**

- Under the current health orders, the wearing of face masks is mandatory for all staff and students while indoors. This includes corridor areas and the canteen. Students are also required to wear masks on public transport including school buses. Masks are not required outdoors.
- 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 continue to limit the number of external adults, including parents and carers who are onsite.
- Parents and carers 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.

#### **Transport Canberra buses:**

- Transport Canberra have resumed all dedicated school bus services from Monday 25 October. Further details can be found on the Transport Canberra website <https://www.transport.act.gov.au/>

#### **College Canteen:**

- The College canteen will be open, with card payment being the preferred method of payment.
- Distancing measures including designated entry points for year groups will be in place.

#### **Uhr Information Centre:**

- The IC will return to normal hours of operation from Monday 1 November.
- Students are required to follow the instructions from the staff in the Information Centre.
- Students will be required to check into the library before school and while on study lines so that the usage of the library can be accurately tracked.
- 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.

**Summer Sports:**

- Under the current guidelines for schools, Summer Sports are now permitted to resume.
- Students who are registered to participate in Summer Sports will be notified by the relevant Convenor with the specific details of the return to trainings, competitions and guidelines.

**End of Year Events:**

Following the release of the Health Directives for Covid-safe End-of-Year Events for Schools, separate communications will be sent to Year 10 and Year 12 families outlining the arrangements for the calendared events.

**End-of-Term dates:****Year 12**

Thursday 4 November: Final day of academic classes.

Friday 5 November: Year 12 examinations begin as per the timetable previously distributed to students.

**Year 11**

Friday 5 November: Final day of academic classes.

Monday 8 November: Year 11 Examinations begin as per the timetable previously distributed to students.

**Year 10**

Friday 26 November: Final day of academic classes.

Monday 29 November: Mass and Awards; Social Event.

**Years 7-9**

Wednesday 8 December: Final day of academic classes. School day ends at 3.27pm.

**Years 7 – 10 Assessment and Reporting:**

As communicated previously, teachers will be relying more heavily on both formal assessment items and non-formal tasks (e.g. formative class work) to measure student progress, and report grades and indicators at the end of this semester. As such, it is most important that students work hard during class to complete the set work to the best of their ability, as this class work will often be used to support and inform our semester reports.

**Student Wellbeing and Support:**

As we 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 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.
- 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.
- Advice and support for transitioning students back to school can be found in this useful document. [HERE](#)

**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](mailto:hugh.boulter@daramalan.act.edu.au).

I would like to extend my thanks to all of our families for your ongoing support during these challenging and uncertain times. It is important that we continue to follow the current Covid-19 health advice and guidelines to ensure that our community remains safe and well over the final weeks of the school year. We are very much looking forward to having students from each of our year groups back onsite next week.

Best wishes  
Rachel Davies

Principal  
29 October 2021