



Pittwater House

From the Deputy Principal

22 May 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As Dr Hillier communicated earlier this week, we are enthusiastically looking forward to all of our students returning to face to face classes from Monday 25 May. We will be returning to our normal timetable and bell times. However, although things are getting back to normal, there are still lots of things that will be different for our community.

Our primary concern will be to maintain practices aimed at keeping the Pittwater House community safe and to ensure the continuation of student learning is supported. 1.5 metre social distancing in a School environment is not possible, however, we have put measures in place to minimise crowding and contact. Therefore, parents are reminded that all infection control procedures remain:

Health and Hygiene

- Parents must inform the School if their child is a suspected/confirmed COVID-19 case, or if they have had close contact with a suspected/confirmed COVID-19 case.
- Students who are unwell must not attend school.
- If a student feels unwell during school hours, they must report to the Health Centre. Parents will be contacted to collect them immediately.
- Sanitisation procedures must continue to be followed. Students and staff will all sanitise as they enter the School grounds, each classroom or facility.
- Students will be encouraged to practise correct hand and respiratory hygiene at all times.
- Students will be encouraged to wash their hands with soap throughout the day.
- The School will continue to have an increased cleaning and sanitisation schedule.
- Student desks and backs of chairs will be sanitised at the end of each lesson.
- No use of bubblers, therefore, water bottles are needed.
- No sharing of food or drink.

Social Distancing and Reducing Contact

Although communications from the Prime Minister, the Minister of Health and the Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) have advised schools that it is not necessary for students to follow social distancing guidelines in schools, we will still be making sensible changes where possible and are also conscious of the need to keep our adult staff safe, who do need to follow social distancing protocols. Therefore, until further notice we will be following these practices:

- No visitors on campus
- No excursions or incursions
- No interschool activities or sports
- No whole school assemblies
- No parents on site unless ECC. Parents needing to drop something off or pick up a child, need to call reception from the School gate on 9981 4400 rather than entering the School campus.
- No use of lockers

- Play equipment remains out of bounds for non TPHS students and closed out of hours
- Pool and weights room to remain closed
- The School Uniform Shop will continue to require appointments
- Canteen online orders only
- Efforts will be made in queues, corridors and indoor spaces to avoid physical contact and to allow spacing.
- Change rooms will remain closed until further notice, therefore, School PE uniform is to be worn on days where Sport or PDHPE practical lessons are timetabled. Please note, this is the School PDHPE uniform rather than representative or specific sport clothing (such as basketball or athletics shorts).
- Although, we will revert to our standard period times and timetable, teachers will complete classes early enough to facilitate desk cleaning and to minimise crowding in corridors.
- All parent teacher interviews will take place via Zoom. Year 7 ones have taken place successfully this week. Year 8 will be in Week 6 and Year 10 in Week 7.
- The Hall and nominated classrooms will be opened during wet weather to reduce crowding in corridors.

Buses

- State Transit Buses - Transport NSW Health and Transport for NSW have indicated that social distancing between students on buses is not required. On regular bus routes students will be given priority to ensure that no student will be left behind on their way to and from school. School buses will be running as usual. Students are reminded to always tap on to ensure accurate data of usage for sufficient buses to be provided.
- Pittwater House Buses – Parents are to make bookings as per normal via SkoolBag. Students will be required to sanitise their hands on entry. They will also be required to use their student card for tapping on and off.

Parents will be aware from the media coverage this week that traffic and road congestion is going to be increased next week. We imagine that our carpark and kiss and drop-off is going to be even more congested than it has been in the past. Therefore, it is essential parents follow the signs and instructions of staff, they don't leave their cars and they leave plenty of time. Patience is going to be necessary for all Sydney drivers in the coming weeks.

We are hoping that despite these restrictions, the rest of the term can be as normal as possible. We are focusing on the students learning and will be starting to re-evaluate with the intention of reintroducing the various clubs and co-curricular activities that are held within the School and are not requiring external support, coaches or instructors. Flexibility and evaluation have been constant themes this year and we will continue to modify our structures as the circumstances evolve.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact either myself or one of the Heads of School.

Yours sincerely



James Walmsley
Deputy Principal