



6 September 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

Currently the clear message from NSW Health is that families should be keeping children at home unless it is absolutely necessary for them to attend school.

The Premier has announced the return to school roadmap for students in NSW. Students will return to face-to-face learning through a 'staged return'.

Order of return

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**

From 1 November – **Years 2, 6 and 11**

From 8 November – **Years 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10.**

Year 12 HSC students

Students in Year 12 completing their HSC are already able to return in a limited way and this will continue for the remainder of Term 3. From 25 October, these students will have full-time access to school campuses and their teachers.

The HSC exams for 2021 will be rescheduled to start from Tuesday 9 November. The revised timetable will be provided by NESA in mid-September. There is new information regarding the HSC being released every week. It is important that parents and students access this information on the [NESA website External link](#) and the department's [HSC Hub](#).

At Alexandria Park Community School we are currently planning a staged return under Level 3 plus restrictions. The Leadership Team at Alex Park are working on what that will look like at our School and we will have more detailed information for students, Parents and Carers and staff early in Term 4.

The Alex Park Return to School Plan needs to take into consideration measures that will provide a safe learning environment for students to return, minimise opportunities for transmission and enable the most effective contact tracing and containment measures in the event of a COVID-19 case. These measures will include:

Student cohorting

The principles of student cohorting are to:

- minimise unnecessary physical interaction between students on School grounds
- ensure that students learn with those in their cohort, wherever possible
- minimise opportunities for transmission and enhance contact tracing
- minimise the potential for widespread infection across the School and wider School community
- enable learning to be delivered effectively via face-to-face and home-based learning
- facilitate opportunities for ongoing collaboration for staff, while delivering face-to-face and home-based learning.



Start and finish times / Drop-offs and pick-ups

School start and finish times may need to be varied from the usual:

- 8.40am start and 2.40pm finish time for High School
- 9.00am and 3.00pm finish time for Primary School

Drop-offs and pick-ups may be staggered across the cohorts and all possible entrances and exits to the School will be used to support the beginning and end of School days for each cohort.

Parents and Carers should:

- follow the physical distancing advice for their local area and avoid gathering outside School gates
- remain outside School grounds and adhere to mask-wearing requirements in accordance with the Public Health Order
- sign in using the Service NSW QR code if entering the School.

Masks and face coverings

While on the School site masks are required indoors and outdoors for all staff and all students in Years 7 and above. Masks are strongly recommended for Primary School students.

Vaccinations for School staff

To ensure a COVID-safe return to School, all NSW public school staff on-site will be required to be fully vaccinated.

Any contractors, volunteers or people on site who require a Working With Children Check will also be required to have 2 doses of vaccination before returning to our School.

Our staff have been encouraged to make use of the various routes for priority vaccination available to them and to book appointments for whatever vaccine is available as soon as possible. We will continue to work with NSW Health to prioritise vaccinations for all staff across NSW.

Camp Australia and the canteen

The Camp Australia before and after school program will continue to run with COVID-safe requirements in place. We are hoping to be able to have the canteen re-open for the return to School for students from 25 October.

Learning from home

[The learning from home page](#) has a wide range of curriculum-based activities to further supplement your child's learning, if required.

We understand the pressures of parents both supervising learning from home as well as completing their own work. There are some helpful [wellbeing tools](#) available to help look after yourself and those around you.

Parents are the best judge of what is appropriate for their child to be doing at home. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me or your child's teacher if you need further guidance or something is not working for you.

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.

Diane Fetherston
Principal