



Morisset High School

Successful Learning – Responsible Living

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Dear students, parents and carers,

The end of Term 3 has been a busy one for our school and others throughout the state. We're happy to say that together we made it through what has been a constantly-changing and sometimes difficult Term. We could not have done it without the commitment from all of our families who supported learning from home, and from our fantastic teaching and school staff. I want to thank you all for your efforts to continue to keep our school community safe – I know everyone has faced different challenges at different times through the Term. Term 4 will potentially be no different, so we need to support each other so we create positive outcomes for all.

I hope everyone enjoys a break over the holidays and is looking forward to the COVID-safe return to school sites that we are planning for in Term 4. Please read through the following updates before the start of the school holidays and don't hesitate to reach out for support or questions.

Return to school roadmap for Term 4

The Lake Macquarie Local Government Area (LGA) is currently under stay-at-home orders and our school has been operating under Level 4 COVID Safe Operations.

From Term 4, schools in LGAs that are no longer operating under stay-at-home rules will move to Level 3 operations and a full return of all students.

Masks will be required on site for all staff and students in Year 7 and above, when both indoors and outdoors.

In Term 4, where stay-at-home rules are still in place but high community vaccination and low transmission conditions are met, students will return to school in a staggered approach for prioritised cohorts, with no mingling or on-site activities.

Students in Year 12 and those completing the HSC have already returned to learning onsite in a limited way and this will continue for the start of Term 4, 2021. More details about what learning in Term 4 looks like for Year 12 students is provided below.

The official last day for Year 12 is today, Friday 17 September 2021, however Year 12 will continue to be supported in consolidating their knowledge and preparations in the lead up to the exams.

Order of return - staggered approach under stay-at-home rules

Students will return to face-to-face learning with NSW Health-approved COVID-safe Level 3 plus settings on school sites in the following order:

Date of Return for Face-to-Face Learning	Year Groups Returning to Face-to-Face Learning
From October 25, 2021	Kindergarten and Year 1
From November 1, 2021	Years 2, 6 and 11
From November 8, 2021	Years 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10

The return to school roadmap is subject to change depending on new information expected through the Public Health Order and additional advice from NSW Health. You can stay up to date with the most recent advice on the Department of Education's Advice for Families webpage:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families>

In summary:

- If we remain at **Level 4 restrictions** MHS will continue under the same and current school operations.
- If all restrictions are moved to **Level 2 or 1**, we will operate at school as normal with COVID-safe school operations advised at the level directed. Students and staff will follow their normal timetabled lessons/classes.
- If we are moved to **Level 3 plus** the following school operations will be implemented.

Term 4 Roadmap to Return to School Overview

Weeks 1-3: Years 7-12 Learning from Home
Year 12 Masterclass Timetable and Specialist Curriculum Classes – see Masterclass and SPC Timetable

Week 4: Years 7-11 Learning from Home
Year 12 Masterclass Timetable all onsite – see Masterclass and SPC timetable

Week 5: Years 7-10 Consolidation Week (no set Learning from Home; tasks/lesson)
Year 11 Learning at School Normal Timetable
Year 12 Independent Study Week at Home/Last Week Activities

Week 6: All students return to face-to-face learning at school, following normal timetable for the rest of Term 4.
Year 12 HSC Exams commence.

Year 12 students in Support Classes should return in line with their year group and according to the needs of each student.

Year 12 Organisation Information

Weeks 1-3 Students continue to follow the Masterclass Timetable.

During Weeks 1-3 (October 5th – October 22nd) Year 12 students at MHS will continue to participate in final preparations before the commencement of the HSC Exams on November 9th. All these activities are aimed at developing student confidence in the skills required to achieve great results in the final HSC examinations. This preparation will include:

- Course consolidation.
- Unpacking and explicit feedback from the completion of sections of the trial examination papers. These papers were sent to all students before the end of Term 3.
- Further revision utilising past HSC extended response questions, short answer and multiple choice.
- Individual student support based on particular areas of the relevant syllabus.

PLEASE NOTE - Should the current Stay at Home Order be lifted, then Year 12 will return to Morisset High School for face-to-face implementation following the same organisation as above.

Week 4 – October 25th Return to School Plan

Year 12 students will return to face-to-face learning on Monday October 25, 2021. This is a welcomed opportunity as it will provide a small window for students to reconnect with peers, teachers and school, prior to the start of the HSC Examinations. MHS will be delivering planned Masterclasses for Year 12 students all onsite. The organisation and content of these Masterclasses will be designed based on the needs of the students, which would be identified through student understanding and knowledge demonstrated through the lessons in Weeks 1-3. The aim is to correct areas of weakness in content areas, instilling confidence in our students as they approach the start of the HSC Examinations.

We are also investigating our options to recognise and celebrate the last week of school with some of the traditional activities in Week 5. This will need to be done in compliance with the set restrictions, however every option is being explored to commemorate the milestone event. This is being communicated in Term 4.

HSC update - NEW HSC Examination Timetable

Congratulations to our HSC and Year 12 students! You've nearly made it to the end of a unique and very tough year. Your resilience and work ethic through this time are to be admired.

Students need to access the new HSC Timetable. Students can access an individualised version accessed through their NESAs Online Student account, or the generic HSC Timetable through the NESAs Website: <https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/hsc/key-dates-exam-timetables/hsc-written-exam-timetable>

There is a copy of the timetable attached with this communication.

COVID Safe HSC Examination Procedures

Students need to be aware of expectations of implementing COVID Safe HSC Examinations. Further information will be provided; however, the current protocols have been attached to this communication.

Stay Healthy HSC

There are some great resources provided by the Department of Education to support the wellbeing of Year 12 students. Please check the Stay Healthy website for tips and ideas on focussing on your wellbeing and study and revision tips.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/student-wellbeing/stay-healthy-HSC?q=>

Completing Exit Pathway Survey

We would also like to flag an expectation of all Year 12 students. The expectation relates to the completion of an Exit Survey, which outlines the pathways students will follow after the completion

of the HSC at commencement of their post-school lives. This will be in the form of a Google doc. Further information will be distributed outlining this process, however this information is extremely valuable to MHS and all students are encouraged to complete the survey.

Vaccinations for students aged 12 years and over

Young people aged 12 years and over are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. You can book in your children for Pfizer now, or Moderna vaccination will be available from Monday 20 September, 2021.

Vaccination appointments are available at more than 3,000 locations across NSW, including GPs and pharmacies. More appointments will become available as supply increases, so keep checking for new appointments in coming weeks.

Your wellbeing matters

For families who are continuing to learn from home, the Department of Education has provided online resources at to further support your child's learning, if needed at:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/learning-from-home>

Thank you again for your understanding and support. We hope you and your family enjoy a safe and very well-deserved break over the holidays. Please take some time over the break to check out the Department's wellbeing resources for students and families available at:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/wellbeing-for-students-and-families.html>

As always, our Wellbeing Team, our school executive, teachers and staff are here to help and support your families. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can do anything to help you and your children prepare for a successful return to learning for Term 4. Remember to check out the MHS Facebook page over the school holidays for some tips and ideas to keep your kids entertained over the break. It's time for us all to have a rest, to rejuvenate, and come back refreshed for another successful term.

I will be in touch again soon with further information and any updates for you and your children.

Kind regards



Darren Brailey, Proud Principal, Morisset High School