



31 January 2022

Dear Year 11 students and families,

Welcome to a new school year! We are looking forward to seeing you in your new senior uniforms, ready to learn, on your first day of your senior schooling, tomorrow, Tuesday February 1, 2022.

Key Points About Your First Day:

- Arrive at school by 8.50am and enter through the main gates – a special entrance will be set up for Year 7 through the gates to the Executive Car Park.
- Our canteen is being upgraded, **so there will be no food or drinks available from the canteen during your first week of school.** Please make sure to bring food and snacks for lunch and recess

Rapid Antigen Testing and other COVID Smart Measures at MHS

Our school is focused on the safety of our students, staff and community and keeping our students learning at school, which we know is what works best for a student's learning. To achieve this, we will follow a COVID Smart Plan, in line with the recommendations of NSW Health and The Department of Education.

The key COVID Smart measures at MHS include:

- Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) kits have been made available to all students to help monitor your child's health and minimise transmission of COVID-19 across our school. Please see the information below on when to test your child/children.
- Students and staff need to wear surgical masks when indoors and masks are recommended for use in outdoor spaces, other than when exercising, eating, and drinking. Masks will be provided by the school if required.
- Only fully vaccinated visitors essential to delivering and supporting learning or wellbeing can come on a school site, this includes accessing essential services including the MHS Uniform Shop.



- Students will be kept in their year groups on school grounds, and cohorts and year groups will have allocated break areas, times to visit the canteen and use other school facilities including the library, basketball court and the Wellbeing Hub to minimise the potential spread of COVID-19 across cohorts. Please see the map and allocated space timetable for Year 11 below. Big Picture and Support students can use their allocated cohort break space as well as the spaces allocated to their year group.
- We will continue to use good hygiene, enhanced cleaning, good air flow and ventilation in learning spaces, as well as physical distancing practices.

Please see the information on how to safely wear masks and MHS Student COVID Safe Checklist below.

Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) Kits, how and when to use them

We hope that all our Year 11 families have collected the 4 RAT Kits for use in weeks 1 and 2 and will advise you shortly of how and when to collect RAT Kits for use in weeks 3 and 4.

The use of RAT kits is an important step to support the health and wellbeing of our students and staff. They are a quick and easy screening tool to help detect COVID-19. It is a simple process of placing a nose or throat swab in a chemical solution, which is put onto a testing device. Results can be ready within 15 minutes. Use of RAT kits is highly recommended but not mandatory.

- Instructions are included in the kits detailing how to use the tests, check the results and dispose of the tests safely. You can also download the instructions through the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) website. The user guides also contain a contact number for the suppliers if you need additional support.

How and when do I pick up the RAT kits?

- MHS students are asked to do a test at home on **Monday, January 31** and **Wednesday, February 2**. Make sure that the tests are completed before students attend school.
- In Week 2, MHS students are asked to **test at home**, before attending school on **Monday, February 7** and **Wednesday, February 9, 2022**.
- There are different testing arrangements for Support students. NSW Health recommends that Support students complete RAT tests each day before school. Our Support team have been communicating with families and are available to support their students and families where needed.

What if my child has recently had COVID?

Advice from NSW Health recommends that students and staff that return to school after recovering from COVID-19 do not use RAT surveillance for 28 days (four weeks after recovery) following release from self-isolation.

This is due to NSW Health advice that people who have recovered from COVID-19 have a low risk of contracting it again in the following 28 days. After 28 days (from week five after recovery) students and staff may resume participation in RAT surveillance.

REMINDER: School staff will not be administering the rapid antigen tests to students. Tests need to be completed before attending school.

What to do if your child/children receive a positive RAT test?

If a student receives a positive RAT test, families need to:

- 👉 record the positive RAT result through the Service NSW website or the Service NSW app.
- 👉 notify the school of the positive RAT or PCR test result as soon as possible.
- 👉 follow NSW Health Advice and isolate for 7 days.
- 👉 Negative results **do not** need to be reported to Service NSW or to the school.

What happens when students are unwell at school?

Any student who is unwell and/or displays symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to go home and stay home until they can complete a RAT or PCR test.

- If symptoms continue, they should stay at home and take another RAT in 24 hours or have a PCR test.
- If the second RAT or initial PCR test result is negative, the student or staff member can return to school.

What happens when a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?

Under the new NSW Health close contact rules, schools are no longer included in contact tracing. I will however inform our school community when there is a positive case at our school and advise families on the public health advice, including monitoring for symptoms.

Use of surgical masks – No Cloth or Ventilated Masks

- All staff and students will be required to wear masks indoors.
- Vented or cloth masks are not advised by NSW Health to be worn at this time. If required, surgical masks will be available at schools.

- The Department of Education is providing our school with surgical masks as a backup when needed.

Other key measures

Ventilation

We will continue to follow NSW Health ventilation guidelines that natural ventilation and continue to maximise fresh air flow in learning spaces.

This approach is strongly supported by expert advice. Where natural ventilation is not sufficient, mechanical ventilation and/or air purification will be used. We will also continue to use outdoor learning spaces where possible.

Cleaning

We will continue to have enhanced cleaning of our school focusing on high-touch and high-traffic areas.

Physical distancing

We will continue to follow physical distancing guidelines and maintain 1.5 metres distance wherever possible in learning spaces and outdoor areas.

COVID SAFETY

COVID-smart measures for schools

Information for **parents and students**

Being together in a classroom is the most effective way for students to learn and grow. Since COVID-19 remains a relatively mild illness for most children, we're committed to return to school safely in 2022. We will support this through the following measures.



WATCH FOR SYMPTOMS

- If your child is unwell, even with mild symptoms you must keep them home and get them tested. If they display any symptoms they should take a PCR test (nose and throat swab) or rapid antigen test (RAT).
- If symptoms continue your child should stay home and take another RAT or PCR test in 24 hours. If that test is also negative, your child may return to school if another diagnosis is confirmed such as hay fever.



VACCINATIONS

- All staff on school sites must be fully vaccinated.
- We strongly encourage all students and their families to get vaccinated. Children aged 5 to 11 can now get vaccinated. Parents are encouraged to book their child in for a vaccination at the first available opportunity.
- Once eligible, all adults are encouraged to get booster shots.



TESTING

Before the start of term 1

- All staff and students are asked to take a rapid antigen test and get a negative result before attending school at the start of term 1. Your school will provide advice on when tests should be taken.
- Rapid antigen tests will be provided to all staff and students through their schools. Schools will inform parents on how these kits can be collected.

At the start of term 1

- For the first 4 weeks, students and staff should take a rapid antigen test **twice a week on the morning before attending school**. Test kits will continue to be supplied by schools.
- Students who are household close contacts must isolate at home for 7 days.



COVID-19 POSITIVE CASES

- If your child has no symptoms and there is a positive case in their class, year or other grouping, they can continue to attend school in line with NSW Health advice.
- Staff and students who get a positive rapid antigen test result must register it on service.nsw.gov.au or the **Service NSW app** as soon as possible.
- Staff and students who receive a positive rapid antigen or PCR test result must tell their school as soon as possible, and follow NSW Health advice.
- Schools will regularly communicate to parents about the presence and impact of COVID-19 in their community. Parents should expect to be provided with details of any impacted year groups or cohorts.



VENTILATION

- Fresh air is the most effective form of ventilation to minimise the risk of transmission.
- All learning spaces in public schools have been checked to ensure appropriate levels of ventilation and air purifiers have been provided where needed.
- Using outdoor spaces will continue to be encouraged.



MASKS

- All primary and secondary school staff will be required to wear masks indoors.
- No vented masks or cloth masks should be worn. If required, surgical masks will be available at schools.
- Secondary school students are required to wear masks.
- Primary school students are strongly recommended to wear well-fitted masks indoors.



ACTIVITIES

- COVID-19 will be considered in all risk assessments. Guidance will be provided to schools on applying appropriate safeguards across a range of activities.
- Parents will be made aware of the risk of exposure and will need to give their permission for participation in extra-curricular, out of school hours or off-site activities



STUDENT COHORTING

- Schools will continue using cohort arrangements and consider staggered drop-off and pick ups, break times, playground and canteen access.
- Depending on the school, cohort size and timetables, cohorts may be based on classes, years or stages.



VISITORS

- Visitors on school sites should be kept to a minimum to support essential school activities or student needs. Visitors will be required to wear a mask indoors and will be encouraged to wear a mask outdoors if they cannot maintain physical distancing.
- Schools are advised to allow a maximum of 2 parents or carers per student onto school grounds for Kindergarten orientation or Year 7 transition.



KEEPING SCHOOLS OPEN

- Parents are asked to respect the rules at their child's school to help keep the community safe.
- Schools will do everything they can to maintain continuity of face-to-face learning including the use of more casual staff.
- Schools will need to make localised staffing decisions to ensure appropriate supervision can be maintained.
- Schools will not be able to guarantee particular staff for any cohort and students may not have their regular teacher for a class.



LEARNING FROM HOME

- We will continue to monitor the situation and where face-to-face learning is not possible, learning from home options will be supported for short periods.

For more info, visit nsw.gov.au/covid-19

The NSW Government is committed to ensuring school operations continue while prioritising the safety and wellbeing of students and school staff.





STUDENT COVID SAFE CHECKLIST

- On time to class
- Line up in two lines with social distance between each other. No physical contact with others
- Wear your mask correctly
- No eating or drinking as masks need to remain on at all times
- Follow the teachers instructions at all times
- Sanitise your hands when entering the classroom
- Seating Plans require one student per desk and desks must remain apart
- Prepare and be ready for learning and use your own equipment
- Stay in your seat and in the classroom at all times
- Meet all expectations for learning
- Wipe down your work area before leaving the classroom.

THANK YOU FOR DOING THE RIGHT THING





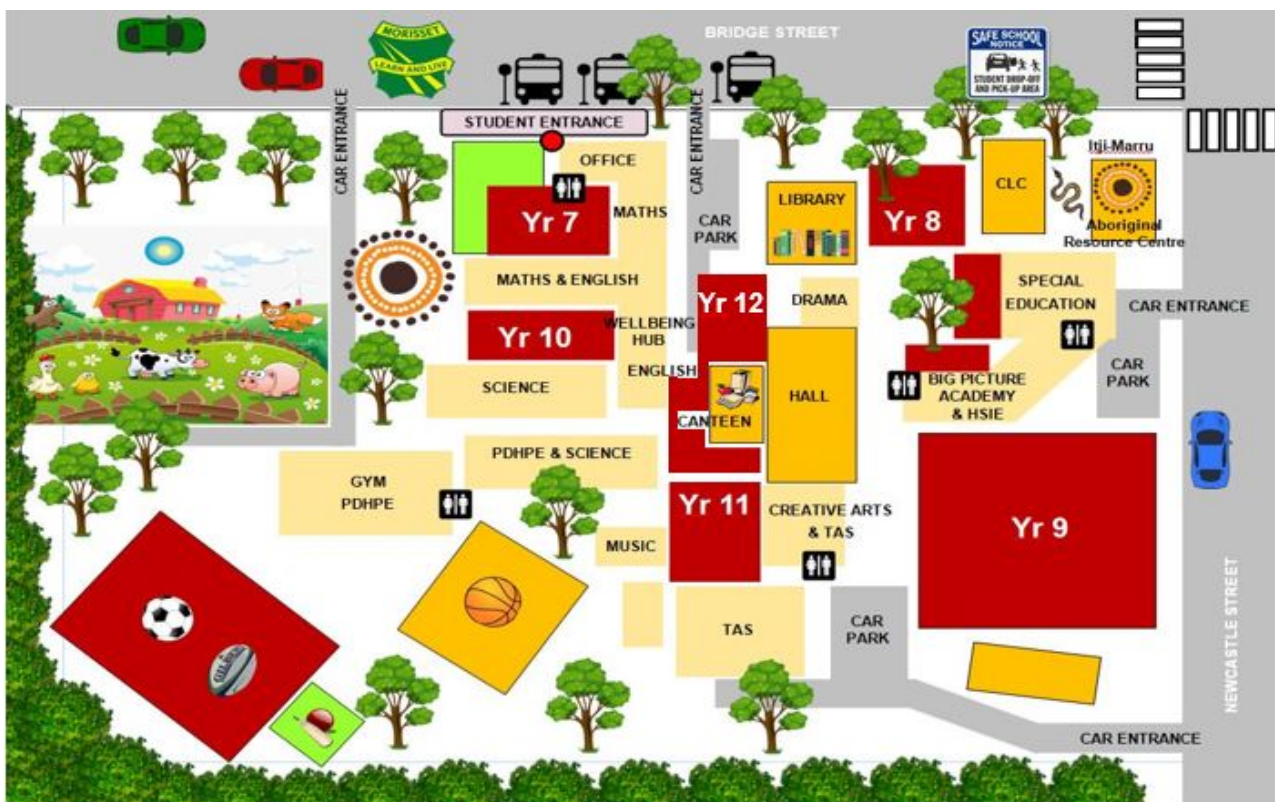
EFFECTIVE WEARING OF FACE MASKS

- 1 Wash or sanitise your hands before putting on or taking off your mask
- 2 Ensure the mask covers your nose and mouth
- 3 Refrain from touching the front of your mask while wearing or removing it
- 4 Do not allow the mask to hang around your neck or under your nose
- 5 Do not reuse single-use masks
- 6 Wash and dry reusable masks after use and store in a clean, dry place
- 7 Correctly dispose of masks after use
- 8 Carry clean masks in a paper or zip-lock bag when a replacement mask is required
- 9 Do not adjust face masks for others
- 10 Wear your mask at all times



Year 11 COVID Smart Allocated Spaces Term 1, 2022

Break Area	IA Quad
Designated Toilet	IA Toilets
Roll Call Rooms	Room 7, Room 9, Room 12, Room 15
Library Day	Friday
Basketball Courts	Thursday
Contemporary Learning Centre	Wednesday
Wellbeing Hub - Recess	Monday
Wellbeing Hub - Lunch	Thursday
Bus Lines Waiting Area	Inside bottom gates



High Expectations – School Uniform and School Supplies

Uniforms can be purchased online, or by appointment at our on-site school uniform shop.

Online Orders: <https://daylightsportswear.com/morisset/>

Make an appointment to visit the uniform shop:

<https://calendly.com/morissethigh>

You can find more information on the MHS uniform expectations here:

https://morisset-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/about-our-school/morisset-high-school-uniform.html?fbclid=IwAR30mHErH5rd4zMvUwaaKEIUgqbMyUerGa_6NvS9e1dbQ2qhrObLG4UFo-U

Invitation to Term 1 Webinar – Tonight from 5.30pm

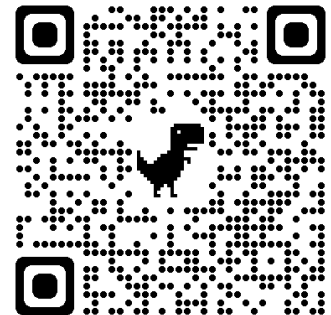
Myself and the senior executive will share more detailed information about the Morisset High School COVID-smart measures for Term 1, and how we will be maintaining our high expectations of students, at a virtual school assembly on Monday, January 31 from 5.30pm. Please see the link and QR code below.

<https://nsweducation.zoom.us/j/67367254887?pwd=TzRjZzBjbDgzZUtuTWp6L055WIN2UT09>

Webinar ID: 673 6725 4887

Passcode: 901037

During the assembly we will outline our school's plan including testing, masks, vaccinations, ventilation, visitor protocols and potential learning from home arrangements. If you can't make the assembly, there will be information shared on the school website and Facebook page, and we will share a video of the presentation on those channels.



We look forward to connecting with you at the virtual assembly. Please send any questions you would like answered to morisset-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au in advance and we will make sure we cover as many as possible.

Thank you for taking the time to familiarise yourselves with this important information. We are very excited to welcome our Year 7 students and their families to the Morisset High School learning family.

Warm Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darren Brailey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Darren Brailey, Your Proud Principal

What is NOT uniform...

'Trackies' (cloth material)



Other coloured jumpers with brand logo's, graphics or stripes are not part of school uniform.

Any sport representative jumpers or jackets, either school, district or outside sporting clubs.



Layers can be worn under school uniform for warmth, however, are not to be seen.



Summary

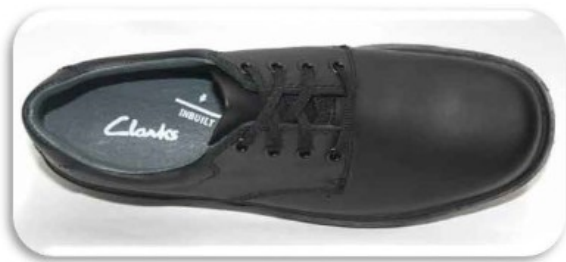
- ✘ No logo's other than MHS on any element of the whole school uniform.
- ✘ No fleece 'trackies' or short 'trackies'.
- ✘ No tights (only underneath a Morisset High School skirt or plain black shorts).
- ✘ No layers.
- ✘ No colours than plain black for jumpers and pants/shorts.

MHS School Shoes

Student safety is essential at Morisset High School's. Students are expected to wear black enclosed shoes. Black leather protective shoes must be worn at all times for safety reasons.

Unsafe footwear include thongs, sandals or slip on footwear.

White shoes are not school uniform.



SHOES YOU CAN'T WEAR (any other colours)

