

26 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

We are very much looking forward to students returning next week. There will be some COVID related challenges that we will need to work through as a community and the purpose of this initial communication will be to outline our plans for 2022. As with any plan we will need to be flexible and adaptable. These are very unusual times, so I will be providing regular updates to ensure you are all moving through each week informed and connected to the school.

Welcome to all of our new families. I too am new to the school and I can say from my interactions so far with staff, students and parents that this is a really welcoming community. I am looking forward to meeting all of you at some stage.

Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs)

You will have seen reports in the media this week regarding the distribution of Rapid Antigen Tests to families. Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) kits will be provided to all families to help monitor your child's health and minimise transmission of COVID-19 across our school. The tests have now arrived and these will be distributed to families on Friday 28 January and Monday 31 January.

Pick up of RATs

What: Parents will collect 4 RATs for each of their children who attend the school.

Where: Where possible you will be able to remain in your car, collect the tests and drive off. Please wear a mask when onsite and note the collection point in the image below (from the bottom car park adjacent to the oval).



When: We are mindful of everyone coming at once, so have devised the below staggered collection times. In saying this, we understand that flexibility is needed, so no one will be turned away if turning up outside your allocated time-slot.

Friday 28 January

Surnames:

A-E – 9:00am - 11:00am

F-K – 12:00pm - 5:00pm

Monday 31 January

Surnames:

L-P - 9:00am - 11:00am

Q-V - 12:00pm - 3:00pm

W-Z - 3:00pm - 5:00pm

If due to extenuating circumstances you have no way of collecting the RATs for your child, please contact our School Office on Friday 28 January so we can devise a plan to support you. Phone - 9451 5111.

Testing with RATs

The use of RATs 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 process of placing a nose or throat swab in a chemical solution, which is put onto a scanning device. Results can be ready within 15 minutes. Instructions are included in the kits detailing how to use the tests, check the results and dispose of the tests safely. Use of RAT kits is highly recommended but not mandatory. You do not need to notify the school of the results unless your child gets a positive result.

Year 7, 11 and 12 students will commence school on Tuesday 1 February. These students should complete a Rapid Antigen Test on Tuesday morning and Thursday morning of that week.

Year 8, 9 and 10 students will commence school on Wednesday 2 February. Thus, students in these years should complete a Rapid Antigen Test on Wednesday and Friday morning of that week.

For the following week (starting 7 February), all students in Years 7-12 should complete a RAT on Monday and Wednesday morning.

Students in the Support Unit will receive enough RATs for daily screening across their first two weeks of school.

Final words on RATs:

- RAT kits should be collected from school by a parent or carer and the tests completed at home in the morning before attending school.
- School staff will not be administering the Rapid Antigen Tests to students.
- Each student will receive an initial supply of 4 RATs to be used twice a week in the morning before attending school. Note, those students in the Support Unit will be issued enough RATs for daily testing over the first two weeks of school.

- If a student or staff member receives a **positive** RAT result, they need to record the positive RAT result through the [Service NSW website](#) or [Service NSW app](#) and notify the school of the positive RAT or PCR result as soon as possible.
- They must also follow NSW Health rules and isolate for 7 days.
- Negative results **do not** need to be reported to [Service NSW](#) or to the school.

Unwell at school

Any student or staff member who is unwell and/or displays symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to go home and stay at 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 and they are displaying no symptoms **OR** they are diagnosed as another non-contagious condition such as hay fever, 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 close contact rules, schools are no longer included in contact tracing. I will inform the school community when there is a positive case in our school and advise families on public health advice, including monitoring for symptoms.

Mask Wearing

There has been an update to mask wearing as outlined below:

- All staff and students will be required to wear surgical masks indoors.
- No vented or cloth masks should be worn. If required, surgical masks will be available at school (as a backup).
- Masks are also strongly encouraged in outdoor settings when it's difficult to physically distance.
- Your child can remove their mask when eating, exercising or playing a musical instrument.

Visitors on school sites

Unfortunately, there are quite strict rules at the moment in regard to parents coming onsite. No parents, carers or visitors will be allowed on school site until further notice with the following exceptions:

- Two parents or carers are allowed to accompany their child into school on their first day of Year 7 as are parents of students starting at a new school.
- Volunteers or staff operating uniform shops can be onsite (must be vaccinated). Note – parents can come and collect uniform items as outlined later in this update. Parents collecting uniforms are not asked for their vaccination status. We ask that all parents when collecting uniforms wear a mask.
- Visitors supporting school operations and curriculum delivery must be fully vaccinated.

All staff on school sites are required to be fully vaccinated.

Information Session

In an effort to keep you informed and connected to the school, we will be running an information session over **Zoom for parents/carers on Monday 31 January between 5:00pm-6:15pm.**

The session will be an opportunity where you can hear from myself, our Deputy Principals (Mr Finley and Ms Simic) and Head Teacher Wellbeing (Ms McWhirter). We will share with you our plan to manage the challenges that come with COVID. Please note that in 2022, Mr Finley will be the Deputy Principal for Years 8, 10 and 12 and Ms Simic for Years 7, 9 and 11.

Towards the end of the presentation there will be a Q&A section and some specific information for Year 7 parents.

Please find the Zoom invite below. You will need to sign in with a registered Zoom account.
<https://nsweducation.zoom.us/j/67410014590?pwd=SiMvaXQvYUJHOS9wcGpJTmqrVGplQT09>

Meeting ID: 674 1001 4590

Passcode: 321804

We look forward to connecting with you on the 31st. Please send any questions you would like answered to my email address in advance and we will make sure we cover as many as possible. My email is Nathan.lawler6@det.nsw.edu.au

If you cannot make the session, no need to panic. We will record it.

Uniform Shop

It was nice meeting some of you at the Uniform Shop on Saturday. If there are uniform items that still need to be purchased for your child, please follow this link <https://tfhsuniformshop.com.au/>

For those that have ordered online: Uniform items can be collected at school under the COLA on:

- Saturday 29 January between 10am-3pm
- Monday 31 January between 8am-10am

If your child needs to try on items, a booking can be made [here](#).

It is hoped that all students are in full school uniform from Day One. I look forward to meeting more of you either when collecting your child's uniform or later in the term.



Final word

One of the largest challenges we will face this term is staffing the school. In our planning, we will do whatever we can to ensure the continuity of learning at school. We are anticipating that there will be high staff absences at different stages due to COVID. It will be all hands on deck here at school. During these periods we will keep you updated of our plans.

Kind regards

Relieving Principal