



The Hills Sports High School Newsletter

From the Principal

June 2020

RETURN TO FACE-TO-FACE LEARNING

Our school returned to Face-To-Face teaching and learning from 25 May 2020 and since then most classes have been operating normally with teachers and students all enjoying the return to familiar ways of working in our school.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has certainly had an impact on the way in which we have operated our school for the first semester of the year where we moved very quickly to remote learning, staff changing methods of teaching to use technology and then gradually returning to the new normal.

Currently, we have increased hygiene measures in the school to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission and infections and continue to follow NSW Health advice and Department of Education protocols to minimise any risk to student and staff safety at our school.

Unfortunately, this still means that visitors to our school are currently restricted and remain so for at least the beginning of Term 3. This includes parents who are only permitted on-site for essential reasons. This will mean a change to our Parent/Teacher Meetings for this year (currently postponed) into some other format that we are currently planning – more details will follow in Term 3.

COVID SCHOOL CLOSURE PLAN

Hopefully we will never have to enact it, but I have prepared a COVID School Closure Plan which will be used should the need arise where we must close the school and send everyone home with little or no notice.

Should there be a confirmed case of COVID-19 linked directly to the school we would be instructed to close the school for deep cleaning and to send everybody home as quickly as possible. The plan is designed to use all of our perimeter gates and to allow parents to pick up their children without the need to enter the school and to do this efficiently and safely.

Attached to the back of this newsletter is the summary of what you as parents would need to do if this plan was activated – thanks in advance for supporting the school with this – hopefully we never use it.

SEMESTER ONE REPORTS

The reports for Semester One will be modified from our normal format and only provide information on outcomes achieved to date and a comment by the teacher for each subject. These will be issued in early Term 3.

SPORTING EVENTS

Most sporting events have been cancelled for this year, including all Sydney West Competitions. Our Talented Sports Program (TSP) has resumed with training sessions and coaches working with our students. Normal sport at school resumes from July 1, which means games involving contact may resume.

The Sports High Schools are planning some competitions for TSP sports in Terms 3 & 4 – details will be communicated to the various TSP Mentors when available and information will come from them to the students.

P&C MEETING UPDATE

Our P&C Meeting this term was cancelled due to COVID-19 and has been scheduled for 19 August 2020 when we will also have the re-scheduled AGM. At this stage it is planned for the school Library from 7pm where we can spread out and follow social distancing protocols – this will be confirmed closer to the date and will depend on COVID-19 restrictions in force at the time.

THE NEW SCHOOL PLANNING CYCLE – 2021-2024

Next term we will commence the process of planning the new 4-Year School Improvement Plan. New processes have been developed by the Department of Education to strengthen and streamline school planning.

We will need to gather information and opinions to help us create a plan that drives the school for the coming 4 years so please look out for any opportunities to respond to surveys and to provide feedback to assist us in this process.

YEAR 12 CHANGED DATES – LAST DAY OF LESSONS, HSC, GRADUATION & FORMAL

In case you missed earlier updates, please note that several key dates for Year 12 students have changed for this year.

The last day of attendance at our school will be Friday 16 October 2020 (end of Week 1, Term 4). This means that all Year 12 students are expected to return to classes after the Sept/Oct school holidays for the first week of Term 4. This is due to the fact that the HSC commencement date has changed to Tuesday 19 October 2020.

Our Year 12 Presentation Assembly & Graduation will be held on Friday 16 October 2020 from 9am until approximately 10:30am in our school hall. At this stage any COVID restrictions in place for that time are not known and there may be a need to significantly restrict the size of the audience. If this is the case it is likely to be a ticketed event and only those with tickets will be able to attend to watch – more details towards the end of Term 3.

The Year 12 Formal date has been changed to Tuesday 17 November 2020, which is after the HSC has concluded. Details of this event and payment requirements are being distributed to Year 12 students this week. Again, this event is dependent upon any restrictions on the venue being lifted by that date. Should Government restrictions for the venue cause them to cancel our booking we will probably be unable to re-schedule this event again.

TRIAL HSC EXAMS

Our Trial HSC Exams will go ahead as planned from the commencement of Term 3. Year 12 should take advantage of the support provided by their teachers in the lead up to the holidays and also during the holidays as many are preparing tutorial lessons.

FAREWELL MS MCKENZIE

It is with mixed emotions that we say farewell to Ms McKenzie at the end of this term. She has been successful in gaining a promotion and will take up the position of Head Teacher History at Strathfield Girls HS from the beginning of Term 3.

I take this opportunity to thank her for her dedicated service to the school, the students and the community all wish her well in the new school. Ms McKenzie will be sorely missed by all and we congratulate her on a well-deserved promotion.

THANKS TO ALL

I now also thank the parents, students and staff for the cooperation, hard work and for dealing with all of the rapid changes and new issues that hit our school since early March this year. Countless messages of thanks to teachers, to administration staff and to others were very much appreciated. This situation has caused much stress and many difficulties for us all and, as we head to the holidays on an even keel with smooth sailing predicted, I thank you all.

My best wishes to all students and families for a restful holiday and a productive, uninterrupted Term 3.

M.Struyve - Principal

Positive Behaviour for Learning

Our school values of Safety, Tolerance, Achievement and Respect are the core principles which should guide both students and staff at The Hills Sports High School.

Tolerance is the recognition that everyone is different and that we are conscious that all differences are valued.

The Hills Sports High School Be a STAR

Acknowledging others

Listening to others

Tolerance

Be tolerant of others' differences

SAFETY. TOLERANCE. ACHIEVEMENT. RESPECT.

The Hills Sports High School

COVID-19 SCHOOL CLOSURE PLAN – Parent & Student Information

- The Department of Education will close the school and require all students and staff to leave the school grounds as soon as practical **after the notification of a confirmed COVID-19 case which impacts the school.**
- In this situation, the office will **SMS** all parents with mobile phones recorded on our system and advise that students will need to be picked up immediately. We will also **email** parents and post this message on our **website** and on **Facebook**.
- Should a parent wish to confirm the message that we are closing the school and sending students home then please **ring the school office (9622 7300)** for that confirmation or check our website or Facebook page.
- Students will need to be **picked up from one of the various school gates** according to their surname (see table below). A parent/guardian will need to show ID to the teacher at the gate and sign the register before taking the student.
- We cannot risk the community, so it is impossible for us to allow students to leave the grounds by themselves and to travel home via public transport.
- Year11/12 students who have their own car will be permitted to drive themselves home, no other passengers will be permitted.
- Parents unable to pick up their child in this circumstance should contact the office to discuss alternative arrangements.

Gate Number	Location	Surname Range
1,2,3	Front gate/Fitness centre Best Road – Bus Bay	A - C
4	Main driveway/Carpark**	D - H
5,6	Gym Gate on Cnr McKenzie Blvd & Best Road	I - M
7	Soccer Field Gate on McKenzie Blvd	N - S
8	Back Corner of School on McKenzie Blvd	T - Z

*** For those at Gate 4, drive in and around the carpark loop, pick up the student and drive out again.*

- **Once closed**, the school will be “deep-cleaned” and those people traced as “close-contacts” of the infected person will be contacted by NSW Health and advised to be tested for COVID-19 and to remain in isolation until clear. The rest of the school will be advised to return once the school is cleaned and ready to open. The date we resume will be posted on our website, Facebook page and, again, we will SMS and email parents.
- **The school would normally be opened again in a day or two after the closure.**
- I hope that we never need to activate these plans but in case we do, we will do so in an orderly and calm manner – looking after each other as we go.

Please keep this plan ready as a reference in case we need to activate it.

M.Struyve – 29 May 2020



STUDENT LEAVE:

Absence

If a student is absent from school, the parent/caregiver should provide a written explanation within 7 days of the absence. This can be in the form of a letter or email. You may wish to phone the school to advise of the absence. In each case the information provided should include the date, student's name, Roll Call class, the days and dates the student was absent, the reasons for the absence and, for letters, a parent signature. If the student is going to be absent from school for more than three days, parents need to notify the school.

Early Leave

A letter from parents is required and should show the date it is written, student's name, Roll Call class, the time and date when the student wishes to leave, the reason for the request and a signature of a parent or guardian. This letter needs to be handed to the Roll Call teacher. Students are then issued with an early leaver pass. Students must report to the student office with the pass at the required time before leaving the school grounds to sign out officially.

Emergency Early Leave

Parents/Carers who are unable to come to the school to collect their child from the school for an emergency early leave would need to email the school (hillssport-h.school@det.nw.edu.au) indicating the reason for leave and the time needed to leave. The child would be sent from class to come to student office to collect the emailed note to have it signed by a Deputy Principal before being signed out of school at the time required.

Participation in Sporting Events (outside of school)

An Exemption from Attendance form needs to be obtained from the Student Office or downloaded from the DET website. Sufficient notice is required along with documents to support the request.

Holiday Leave

An Application for Extended Leave (Travel) form for absences of 5 days or more can be collected from the Student Office or downloaded from the DET website. Sufficient notice is required along with documents to support the request.



PARENT/CARER IDENTIFICATION:

All parents/carers who are wanting to make contact in person with student or picking up student early from school for any reason early leave, sick bay, etc. will be kindly asked to produce photo identification. (Driver's Licence or Photo Identification card)



SMS ATTENDANCE NOTIFICATION:

After attendance information has been entered, the information is 'polled' by an external SMS system that sends SMS messages to parents of absent students, informing them that their child has not yet attended school today, or is late. Parent/Caregivers are able to contact the school indicating whether they are aware of their child's absence and if it is legitimate. **PLEASE NOTE the SMS system does not support SMS replies. Parents/Caregivers are required to contact the school, by email to hillssport-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au, or by letter which is to be given to your child's Roll Call Teacher upon students return to school.**



SCHOOL CARPARK:

Parents/Carers are reminded the School Carpark is not available for Parent/Carer parking, or for drop off or pickup of Students. There is no pedestrian access through the carpark and into the school for safety precautions. Parents/Carers who require an exemption, please contact David Calleja, Deputy Principal for information on application requirements





The Hills Sports High School

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP



Open on the first Monday of each Month

8am – 9.00am

3/8/2020, 7/9/2020

During the Covid-19 restrictions we ask that you call the office prior to these dates to confirm shop is open.

Requests can be emailed to the school if you are unable to attend during this time.

Please advise student name, uniform item required and size, we will advise

availability and make arrangements for payment.

Junior girls blouse - \$10	Grey pants - \$25	Sports jacket - \$30
Junior boys shirt - \$10	Grey shorts - \$20	Jumper - \$30
Senior girls shirt \$10	Skirt - \$30	*Maroon School jacket \$40
Senior Boys shirt \$10	Sports polo shirt - \$10 Sport Shorts - \$10	*limited stock available
The Hills Sports High School Socks - \$9.00		



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Anne-Katrin Liebe

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International Equestrian Coach Level 2

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BLACKTOWN AUTISM SUPPORT GROUP



The Autism Community Network provides free support during school terms for families living with autism conditions. If you would like to meet other carers who understand you or find social opportunities for your ASD child and their siblings, please contact us or come along to our free support group meetings

When: First Wednesdays 10 am to Noon

Venue: Westpoint Blacktown - in the Food Court, Coffeeland café

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