



Family Update - Week 7

Friday 27 August 2021

Dear Hurlstone students and families,

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the delivery of education in NSW and around the world. Hurlstone students, teachers, staff and families have shown remarkable resilience and flexibility throughout this period.

While the pandemic has affected everybody differently, there are some clear learnings and common themes emerging from NSW and around the world including the need for students to return to school as soon as it is safe for them to do so, because nothing can replace face-to-face learning with an expert teacher. Being at school with their teachers and peers is also vital for student wellbeing as well as social and emotional development.

This morning the NSW Government announced a **COVID-safe return-to-school plan** to provide NSW schools and communities with greater clarity. It is the certainty we need to guide our efforts from now until the end of the year.

Staged return ('Level 3 plus')

When stay-at-home rules are still in place but other community vaccination and transmission conditions are met, students will return to school in a staged way. This is a staggered return for prioritised cohorts, with no mingling or on-site activities.

How will this impact our school?

- **All students will continue to learn from home for the rest of Term 3.**
- If restrictions are reduced to 'Level 3 plus', there may be a staggered return of select cohorts to COVID-safe, face-to-face learning in Term 4, as long as community transmission and vaccination rate requirements have been met in accordance with advice from NSW Health.
- Double doses of COVID vaccinations will be mandatory for any staff on school sites from 25 October, and for all school staff from 8 November.

How will this impact Year 12 students?

- HSC exams will be delayed until 9 November (Tuesday Week 6).
- NESA will release a revised exam timetable and guidelines for a COVID-safe HSC in early September.
- Students should refer to NESA Students Online: <https://studentsonline.nesa.nsw.edu.au>.
- **We will update Year 12 students and families with information about returning to school in Term 4 once we have received updated advice from the Department and NSW Health.**

Areas of concern

- Local government areas (LGAs) and suburbs of concern operating under Level 4 plus restrictions will continue learning from home until they are removed from the areas of concern.
- If cases in certain LGAs increase significantly, learning from home will resume for that LGA until case numbers drop. This will be advised by NSW Health.
- Glenfield is located in the Campbelltown LGA (currently an area of concern).
- **While Level 4 plus restrictions for our LGA remain in place, students will not return to school but continue learning from home until this situation changes.**

Staged return of student cohorts – ONLY if Level 4 restrictions are lifted (see 'Areas of concern'):

- from **Monday 25 October** (Week 4, Term 4), students in **Year 12** will have full-time access to the school campus and their teachers.
- from **Monday 1 November** (Week 5, Term 4): students in **Year 11** will return to school sites under Level 3 plus settings.
- from **Monday 8 November** (Week 6, Term 4): students in **Years 7, 8, 9 and 10** return to school sites under Level 3 plus settings.

Celebrating this week's success

Year 12 had a successful start to their final school assessment period on Thursday with minimal issues. Adopting a flexible model of online assessment was uncharted territory for our school, so it is pleasing to see such a smooth transition to ensure continuity of learning and assessment.

We congratulate Year 12 English Extension 2 students who submitted their Major Works today.

We had 5 of 16 students receive a High Distinction in the Australian Geography Competition, with outstanding results from our boarder students: Fran Ierano achieving the highest result in the school, in the top 3% of all Year 11 entries and Dion Barbe-Lukin in the top 8% for Year 9. It was also fantastic to see our students' reasoning skills scoring so highly against state averages.

Congratulations to the following students who have continued Hurlstone's success with their work shortlisted in the *What Matters?* writing competition:

- Miriyan Ahmad, Year 7 (**Every Time**)
- Najah Mohamed Ajwath, Year 9 (**The Train of Emptiness**)
- Vashni Ravikumar, Year 9 (**Twirling Through Two Worlds**)
- Asma Kathia, Year 9 (**The 7 Minutes of Ablution**)

You can read their submissions by clicking on the links above.

Stay COVID safe

A reminder that the NSW Government has announced that people ages 16 – 39 living in areas of concern can now access priority vaccination appointments. We encourage our students aged 16 and above to access this program. For more information, visit: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/health-and-wellbeing/covid-19-vaccination-nsw/priority-covid-19-vaccination-booking-for-16>. Please note that this initiative is delivered by NSW Health and not the school.

Should anyone in your home be impacted by a positive COVID-19 result, please let the school know so we can provide support.

Stay safe and keep well.

Kind regards,

Christine Castle, Principal and the Senior Executive
Hurlstone Agricultural High School