

CASULA HIGH SCHOOL



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SAFE

HIGH EXPECTATIONS

ACHIEVEMENT

RESPECT

PREPARED

Commencement of the school year - update on COVID-19 guidelines

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had a wonderful relaxing break. All our staff at Casula High School are looking forward to the return of our students, and to welcoming our new students for the 2021 school year.

Across the break we have been monitoring the health advice regarding the emerging COVID situation in NSW and before school commences, I wanted to update you on some of the latest COVID-safe guidelines recently released by the NSW Government and what they mean for the start of Term 1.

The health and safety of all in our community is our paramount concern and so we will begin 2021 with some of last year's restrictions continuing to be in place for our school activities. For ease of references, these restrictions are summarised in a table at the end of this letter.

Although NSW Health have maintained restrictions around parents accessing the school sites, a decision has been made to support the settling of our Year 7 students into a new school environment at the start of the year that parents / carers with children in Year 7 can walk their child to the school gate where they will be greeted by staff. To ensure physical distancing is observed, parent entry into the school will not be possible. Parents / carers of Year 7 students may collect their child from the front of the school at 2:50pm. (2:55pm dismissal applies from Monday 1 February).

Parents and carers of all other students are to continue maintain social distancing, and not enter the school grounds unless there is scheduled meetings with the Deputy Principal or Head Teacher.

The regular dismissal time of 3:00pm will apply from the commencement of Term 1 and will be monitored to ensure COVID safe practices apply. Year 7 and 8 students will be dismissed 5 minutes before the conclusion of the school day (2:55 pm) to support with social distancing.

Please remember that students are not to attend school if they are unwell, even if they only have the mildest of symptoms. Those who have been unwell, are required to return a negative COVID-19 test and be symptom-free before returning to school.

NSW Health keeps an updated list of case locations and information on their website and I encourage you to review frequently and follow any requirements they put in place. If your family is impacted by one of the listed venues please contact the school so that we can assist you.

I will continue to keep you updated on NSW government requirements around COVID-19 and any implications they may have on school staff, you or our students. I also want to assure you that we continue to ensure we abide by all NSW requirements including physical distancing for adults, hygiene measures and infection control.

Thank you for your patience and ongoing understanding as we continue to work through the evolving situation. I want to remind you that if you or your family are having difficulties please contact your child's Deputy Principal so that we can support you.

I am grateful for the resilience of our school community and I look forward to working with you to deliver to our students a rewarding and exciting school year.

Yours sincerely,


Gareth Smith

COVID SAFE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Area Regulations Distancing and Hygiene

- Students are not required to practise physically distancing whilst at school.
- Increased cleaning protocols in place.
- Reminders to students about personal hygiene, hand washing, cleaning shared items etc.

Attendance

- All students should be attending school unless they are unwell or have a medical certificate to support their absence.
- If students are unwell, they must not attend school, even with the mildest of symptoms.
- Students must return a negative COVID-19 test, which must be provided to the school, and be symptom free prior to returning to school.
- If a student develops flu-like symptoms whilst at school, they will be sent to the office and parents contacted to collect them and have a COVID-19 test.

School assemblies

- Whole school assemblies will be held.

Excursions, Camps

- Field trips, excursions and camps can now proceed (except to aged care facilities).

Parents on site during school hours

- Parents are allowed on site for essential activities only during school hours. This includes pre-organised meetings with teachers. Where possible, parent / teacher phone conferences are preferred.
- No attendance at sporting or other activities in school hours.

Masks

- Staff and students are not required to wear a face mask while at school.
- Anyone who wishes to wear their own face mask in schools can do so.
- Students over 12 must comply with the Public Health (COVID-19 Mandatory Face Coverings) Order 2021 when travelling to and from school and during transport for school excursions