



WINMALEE HIGH SCHOOL

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COVID-19 Update

Dear Parents, Caregiver and Students

Following the message sent out to families on Sunday evening, we would like to provide you with further details about the various measures the school is taking to continue to practice good hygiene and implement any current advice regarding reducing the impact of COVID-19.

This morning, a staff meeting was held to provide up to date advice about what we can do as a staff to support students and maintain calm and safety in our school, and ultimately focus on doing what we can to limit the spread of the virus through our community.

During roll call, students, via the school PA system, were provided with some information about some simple, best practice hygiene strategies to be used in the school environment. Students were also informed about some of the school wide changes that impact how we will go about our day to day routines at school.

Effective immediately, below are a list of measures the school has taken in response to this situation. This list will no doubt evolve, as we continue to respond to new challenges that this situation presents.

The school will conduct a daily review of our practices and communicate clearly to all staff, students, parents and carers regarding any new measures or changes to routines.

School Strategies:

- In line with Department of Education advice, all excursions are cancelled until further notice. Please see the sections below on School Sport and School Excursions for more details and information.
- Weekly School Assemblies are cancelled. This includes the school's ANZAC service assembly which was scheduled for the final week of this term. Year group meetings may still occur.
- Hand wash is available in all classrooms which have a sink (Science Labs, Kitchens, Art Rooms and Industrial Arts Workshops). Students can wash their hands before and after use of shared equipment in these classrooms.
- Where appropriate, teachers will build handwashing routines into lessons, particularly where equipment is being shared (e.g. laptop computers, sport equipment, keyboards and tablets).
- Surfaces and equipment which are in high use will be cleaned regularly.
- Students are encouraged not to share equipment where possible (pens, calculators, rulers etc.) and are advised to wash hands if equipment is shared.
- All student bathrooms and staff bathrooms have handwashing soap available and these will be checked daily and refilled as required. Students are being encouraged to wash their hands regularly throughout the day.



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- Students should, where possible to allow the recommended spacing between them and their peers. Students will work under the direction of their teachers to manage appropriate seating arrangements in the classroom.
- Classroom windows will be open to allow for ventilation.
- Students are encouraged to apply safe distancing precautions between themselves and others in the playground.
- During wet weather, the hall may be opened up as a supervised playground space to reduce the number of students in internal corridors.
- The School Canteen will maintain their high standard of hygiene and safe working practices and will put additional measures in place to protect this area.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own personal hand sanitiser to school for personal use.
- Appropriate hygiene posters will be on display around the school to promote the simple steps to help stop the spread.

School Sport – Wednesday afternoons for Year 9, 10 and 11

Due to the cancellation of all excursions and other sporting events, there are many regular sporting activities that will not be able to proceed each Wednesday. This includes Grade Sport, Ice skating, Ten Pin Bowling and other recreational sports where students travel to venues by bus.

This will mean that the school will need to accommodate students in school based recreational sports on Wednesday afternoons. This requires students to be flexible and cooperate with the limited space and resources we have available at the school, particularly during any wet weather events.

One way to alleviate this strain and increase recreational sport options for the majority of students is to bring forward the regular practice of ceasing compulsory participation in sport for Year 11 students. Year 11 would normally cease participation in Wednesday afternoon sport at the end of Term 3. We will offer Year 11 the choice of opting out of Wednesday afternoon Sport and focus on course work and assessments at home. A note will be sent home for completion by parents/carers to make this permission active.

Excursions

All excursions are cancelled until further notice. This includes the Year 7 Zoo excursion, all Sydney West sporting events, Meet the Keeper, Varuna Writing Workshop and any other events scheduled for the remainder of this term, at least. Surf Camp has been postponed, with staff liaising with the venue provider to secure a booking later in the year.

There are also some major excursions and events which would normally occur in Term 2 and 3, which we will be cancelled, unless circumstances change. These include the Year 10 Leadership Ski Week, Ski Racing, Year 11/12 Ski Weekend and Duke of Edinburgh expeditions.



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For any excursions where money has already been paid, where possible we will attempt to provide a transfer of funds or refunds. As different events are at various stages of planning in regards to deposits paid, we will need to assess each excursion on a case by case basis to determine if we are able to refund any money paid.

Students and staff unwell

Today, we had several students presenting to sick bay feeling unwell. Confirming advice that if anyone is feeling unwell, or presenting with flu like symptoms, they should not attend school. This includes students and staff.

If any member of your family tests positive to COVID-19, please inform the school. We will use this information discreetly and sensitively to follow procedures to protect the school community. We are also monitoring students who have attendance exemptions for overseas travel.

HSC Year 11 and 12 Assessment

Our senior students, in particular Year 12 students undertaking their HSC, are a priority. It is important that students understand that Illness/Misadventure procedures still apply, requiring documentation. This is to maintain the integrity of school based assessment, as required by NESA, and promote equity and fairness for all students during difficult times. Please contact the school if you need to discuss an issue regarding Year 11 and 12 assessments.

As mentioned at the beginning of this correspondence, the school will communicate any new information to our school community as soon as possible.

On behalf of all school staff, thank you again to the entire school community for your patience, understanding and for your words of appreciation. We appreciate it.

Warmest wishes,

Voula Facas
Relieving Principal
16 March 2020