



We're excited about our return to face-to-face learning and welcoming students and staff back onsite where we know the best learning happens. This is a short summary of what our parents and students can expect.



### **Return to onsite learning**

Picnic Point High School students in Years 7-11 will return to face-to-face learning on Monday 25 October.



### **Our school's COVID-safe operations**

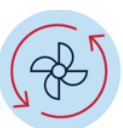
Our COVID-safe return to school plan is NSW Health approved and includes numerous effective practices to support the health and wellbeing of our students and staff. These practices include vaccinations, mask wearing, reduced mingling of student groups and staff, ventilation in classrooms and continued good hygiene and cleaning.



### **Keeping Students Together**

As we return to school students will be kept in their cohorts to minimise opportunities for transmission of COVID-19 and to enable effective contact tracing and containment. This means minimising interaction between students on school grounds and keeping cohorts together where possible.

A detailed breakdown of how cohorting will work to minimise interaction between year groups will be provided to you shortly, once this is finalised.



### **Ventilation**

Having open or well-ventilated spaces reduces the risk of transmission of COVID-19 because infectious particles are more quickly diffused in the open air. The department will continue to work with NSW Health to provide us with advice and guidance on maintaining good ventilation in our school and we will make use of our outdoor spaces wherever practical.

Picnic Point High School now has fully installed and operational Cooler Classrooms equipment, thanks to the NSW government investment of more than \$500 million dollars over five years to improve indoor comfort and air quality in public schools around the state. Fresh air ventilation systems maintain healthy air quality with smart outdoor weather monitors linked to interactive control systems that have been installed in each classroom. Reverse-cycle air conditioning will now keep learning spaces comfortable during hot summers and chilly winters while fans and fresh air ventilation systems maintain healthy air quality in 34 classroom spaces.

Additionally the school has recently had an extensive ventilation audit and any rooms which are not considered well ventilated will not be in use.



### **Mask wearing for students and staff**

Masks are required to be worn on school site by staff and students indoors and outdoors unless eating or exercising.

We encourage you to make sure your child has a mask in their possession each day. In the event that a child loses or misplaces their mask we will have additional supply to accommodate them. Masks must be worn correctly and are not to be shared.



### **Vaccinations**

All staff required on site supporting the return to school will need to be fully vaccinated from 18 October as mandated by DoE. A system is in place to verify confirmation of vaccination status.



### **School Activities**

During Term 4 many school-based activities will remain on hold until NSW Health advise otherwise. This includes large celebrations like assemblies, presentation days and graduations, arts and sports events.

We continue to investigate and plan a COVID-safe Graduation and Presentation Day event to occur at the end of the year. More information will be provided later in the term.



### **Orientation and transition to school**

Onsite orientations and transition programs are not currently allowed in person on school sites until we are advised differently by NSW Health. We'll share more information in the coming weeks about our school's virtual orientation and transition program.



### **HSC student revision and support**

Teachers of HSC subjects are available for revision and support during their usual timetabled lesson time. In addition, onsite small group study workshops will be organised for students if needed. Online support is also provided to students by their Year 12 teacher.

Study bubbles will commence on Monday 11 October. Students must stay within their study bubble groups and not mingle with other groups. Study bubbles are limited to a maximum of 5 students – the same 5 students are to stay together in their group while at school.



### **HSC exams**

We are putting in place and preparing COVID-safe arrangements for exams to minimise mixing between students. These plans include appropriate spacing for students and that exams are conducted in well-ventilated rooms and spaces, mask wearing for students and staff onsite. We are also organising alternative venues in the event we need to relocate the exams.