

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

Welcome to Term 4.

It's been a very challenging year and I would very much like to thank everyone for their understanding, support and kind words over the past three terms.

The struggle has been real and I would like to commend my staff and students who have shown resilience in dealing with the challenges. In particular the graduating class of 2020, who have worked exceeding hard to get to their HSC examinations. We wish them all the best in the coming weeks.

Last term we were able to livestream the Year 12 graduation assembly and I am humbled to say that it was one of the most emotional events that I have ever attended. Thank you to all the parents who sent in their video clips to congratulate their child, it was the highlight of the assembly.

As a follow up from my previous email, I am very pleased to announce that in 2021, Moorebank High School, will be introducing three classes for students with Autism. The additional staff and 15 students that will commence next year are above the establishment numbers and do no effect the capacity for local enrolments or staffing. Thank you to the parents that responded via email in support of a much needed (currently lacking) need within our community.

Last term we also fare welled Mr Greg Horsley (retirement) and Ms Christine Roberts (substantive position at Bowral HS). Mr Sansom continues as Deputy Principal for Year 12 and Year 9 (and Year 7, 2021), Ms O'Connor continues as Deputy Principal for Year 7 and Year 11. We welcome Ms Amina Baghdadi (Mon, Tues, Wed) and Ms Alexandra Skelton (Thurs and Friday) who will be relieving as Deputy Principals for Years 8 and 10. I welcome and congratulate Ms Baghdadi and Ms Skelton who I am sure will be a huge asset to the senior executive.

Update on the installation of the lifts. This too has been a trial. COVID 19 restrictions overseas hindered the supply of the lifts and recently the issues at the docks and quarantine, have delayed the progress of works. The good news is that the two final lifts have been delivered to the school and installation should be completed by the end of the term. There will be some disruption to the entire science block and classes timetabled in labs will be re-roomed for student learning in the first few weeks of term 4.

As we commence term 4 many restrictions continue to apply; however, there has been some relaxing in terms of sport and transition programs.

Term 4 Covid-19 Updates

- Schools continue to be safe and operations are in line with AHPPC and NSW Health guidelines.
- All students should be learning on-campus unless they are unwell or have a medical certificate to support their absence.

- Physical distancing of children in schools is not required by the AHPPC guidelines. Schools should restrict activities to year groups where possible to limit close contacts to those within year groups. Schools should avoid activities where students visit other school sites,
- Non-essential adults are still not permitted on school grounds or at school events. This includes parents and carers except for face to face parent/teacher meetings that are essential (e.g. to discuss disciplinary or other welfare matters).
- In general, avoid singing, chanting and rapping activities. If needed, these can proceed under strict conditions and guidelines.
- P&C meetings/ Moorebank High School Community Focus Group (CFG) should continue online only. P&C social events or functions including dinners, fundraisers, fetes and barbecues that involve parents and other adults are not permitted in Term 4. I will be emailing the CFG for consultation with the situational analysis for the new Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP).
- Principals may continue to restrict, limit or prohibit activities if deemed to be contrary to the advice of the day, and should escalate any issues or concerns to their director, educational leadership.
- Students must not come to school if they are unwell. Even with very mild symptoms.
- If a student is unwell, staff must refer the student to the sick bay where they can be isolated and the school must arrange for the parent or carer to take the student home.
- Flu-like symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, loss of taste, and loss of smell. If a student has been absent due to flu-like illness or develops flu-like while at school, they are not to return to school until they have a negative COVID-19 test and are symptom-free.
- The negative COVID-19 test result must be sighted and received by the school for both students and staff members before their return to school. Parents can provide the school with a screenshot of the text message confirming the negative test.
- If, after testing negative, a student or staff member has ongoing symptoms which persist beyond 10 days, they should arrange to see their doctor. The medical assessment should consider whether the symptoms are typical for that person (for example seasonal, allergic rhinitis), and provide documentation for the school if this is the case. If there are new symptoms at any time, the person should be tested again.
- Students who show flu like symptoms and do not provide the school with a negative COVID-19 test result, the student will be excluded from school for a 10 day period. Additionally, the student must be symptom-free for at least 3 days before returning to school.
- Medical practitioners may deem that students with underlining condition do not require a COVID-19 test. A medical certificate must be provided to the school to confirm that the student does not have symptoms that warrant a COVID-19 test. The certificate must also indicate that the student is able to return to the school environment.

- Schools may now commence planning for on-site Year 6-7 transition programs to commence from 12 November 2020 subject to health advice at that time and consistent with the advice that follows.
- Where possible, students should stay within their relevant cohort group (i.e. class, year group, or stage) for all learning activities within their school. This applies to all curriculum activities, co-curricular activities approved in these guidelines, arts activities and sport and physical activities. The mixing of students from different cohort groups should be avoided where possible in order to limit close contacts to the relevant student cohort.
- Interschool activities can recommence where there is a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place. This means that schools and students may now travel outside of their local community. This applies to all interschool sport and physical activities, curriculum activities, arts activities and extra-curricular activities organised or sponsored by the school.

As more information or updates become available I will continue to communicate to the community via email. Looking forward to working together for a rewarding term and in promoting the school's guiding principle "**Positive Relationships, Positive Outcomes**" and our values and expectations via **BRAVE**.

Be generous Respectful and responsible Act safely Value learning Excellence

Kind regards,

Vally Grego

11/10/20