



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

There was much enthusiasm from students and staff this week as all students Years 7 – 11 returned to school. Our school continues to operate under level 3 plus conditions. This means we are unable to conduct School Assemblies. A decision has been made to adjust Monday's timetable and move the assembly period to period 6 on a Monday (currently timetabled period 2 Mondays). This will allow students to leave and be picked up early at 2.31pm each Monday.

Students who catch a bus or are unable to be picked up, will be supervised at school during period 6. New timetables will be issued to students at the end of this week.

Important information that is required to be communicated to the school community, will be delivered virtually when required, or via email, school website and Facebook.

Masks: The current Public Health Order requires all students from Years 7 -12 and staff to wear a face mask indoors. Students will be required to wear a mask during their lessons and moving between classes due to the large numbers of individuals on site. Students will not have to wear a mask during their breaks at recess and lunch.

Playground areas:

Students must remain in year areas before school, and during recess and lunch. Students can only leave their areas to go to the canteen at the designated time or to go to the active areas (oval or basketball courts).

- Year 7–Green shelters, Old Gym area and grass area
- Year 8–Between Multi Purpose Hall and K Block, up to the path along the western side of the Multi Purpose Hall.
- Year 9–Year 9 area between F / G / H Block
- Year 10–Year 10 area between F and E Block
- Year 11–Year 12 Quad between C and D Blocks
- Year 12–Year 11 area or Library. Support–Support COLA (covered outdoor learning area) or students' year area.

Active areas during breaks will be allowed and year groups have been allocated different days.

OVAl

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Recess	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Lunch	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11

BASKETBALL COURTS

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Recess	Year 10	Year 11	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Lunch	Year 10	Year 11	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9

CANTEEN: Pre-ordering is encouraged through the Flexi Schools App or place their order prior to Roll Call. Pre-orders will be able to be picked up at the front right hand window closest to the Administration Block. (SIGNS are above the windows).

Students are to remain in their year areas and will only be able to access the canteen when directed

An announcement will be made during each break to inform when the second group can access the canteen; eg Monday recess - Years 7 and 8 will access the canteen at recess first. An announcement will be made during recess to let Years 9, 10 and 11 know when they can go.

Years 7 and 9 will enter and exit on the left gate closest to hall entry.

Years 8, 10 and 11 will enter and exit the right gate closest to the administration block.

CANTEEN

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Recess	Year 7 and 8	Year 9, 10 and 11	Year 7 and 8	Year 9, 10 and 11	Year 7 and 8
Lunch	Year 9, 10 and 11	Year 7 and 8	Year 9, 10 and 11	Year 7 and 8	Year 9, 10 and 11

Looking forward to reconnecting with you during the remainder of Term 4.

Kind regards, Mr Glen Kingsley, Principal.



The word "cool" has taken on a whole new meaning at Nowra High in term four, with the finalisation of the greatly-anticipated air conditioning project.

Staff and students will be able to breathe more easily during the summer months for many years to come.

Year 12 students pictured here :

(L-R) Rhett Butler, Jackson Jennings, Paige Hutcheson, Paris Rodriguez and Olivia McKibbin demonstrated their excitement about the new learning conditions at Nowra High.



Another super-cool venture has been completed during lockdown, with the instillation of six new state-of-the-art water cooling stations, which supply a steady stream of filtered cooled water from either a fountain or drink bottle filling tap option.

Staff and students are extremely grateful for this initiative which has been supported by a state grant of \$13,000 as well as the promise of a generous donation from our wonderful P&C committee.

The D Block water-station's uses are being demonstrated by Jackson Jennings and Rhett Butler.

Got symptoms? Get tested.

Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms should be tested.

Symptoms include:



fever



cough



sore throat



difficulty breathing



loss of smell



loss of taste

Other reported symptoms of COVID-19 include:

fatigue, runny nose, muscle pain, joint pain, nausea/vomiting, diarrhoea, loss of appetite or other flu symptoms.



Testing is free, quick and easy
health.nsw.gov.au/coronavirus

A reminder for all families

Students must not attend work or school if unwell, even with mild symptoms of COVID-19. Any person with any COVID-19 symptoms must be sent home and not return to school unless:

- they have isolated for 10 days, when no medical certificate is available
- they have a negative COVID-19 test result and are symptom free.

In circumstances where children have other medical reasons for recurrent symptoms, a letter from their GP is sufficient to negate the requirement for a negative test.

Anyone who is unwell with COVID-19 symptoms is strongly encouraged to get tested and self-isolate until a negative result is received.

How to wear a mask



1/4

1

Ensure the mask covers your nose and mouth and fits snugly under your chin, over the bridge of your nose and against the sides of your face

How to wear a mask



2/4

2

Make sure the ear loops are firmly in place

How to wear a mask



3/4

3

Fold the metal strip in the mask around your nose so it stays in place

How to wear a mask



4/4

4

Try not to touch your face while wearing your mask

Compulsory School Attendance

Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The *Education Act 1990* requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An *Application for Extended Leave* may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.





My child won't go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department

may apply to the Children's Court for a *Compulsory Schooling Order*. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Policy library*

The school leaving age:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Wellbeing and Learning* website

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 512

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

© February 2015

NSW Department of Education and Communities