



*Seek the way of Life*

# WHITEBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

*A caring community committed to excellence, diversity and fostering individual talents  
A member of Whitebridge Community of Schools...Working Together*

Lonus Avenue, Whitebridge. NSW 2290  
Phone: (02) 4943 3966 ❖ Fax: (02) 4942 2568

Dear Parents and Carers

This morning the Premier announced that where possible parents are asked to keep their children at home to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to allow for social distancing. Schools will remain open so as students whose parents work in essential services, have limited childcare options and need to continue working are able to send their children to school to be supervised.

Following this statement, things have progressed quite considerably throughout the day and we have moved quickly in response to ensure we can transition to a single platform of learning for our students. I ask for your patience as we continue to develop resources and learning activities across this week and transition our work to support access for students.

From tomorrow, as advised by the Secretary for Education today, we are to provide supervision only and will be delivering all learning online. As we transition to this across the week, the work will be prepared as a single package of work accessible through the google classroom or alternate platform previously discussed with the students in each class. There will be no face to face teaching and learning. This way whether children are at home or at school students will have access to the same learning. No student will be disadvantaged in relation to their attendance at this time due to the Premier and Secretary advising you to keep them at home.

We will continue to support our senior students with in class support should they choose to attend school.

SMS messages acknowledging absence will still be sent to families to enable working parents confirmation of their child's absence for safety and wellbeing reasons and also to support families to reply if their child is sick. It remains very important for us to track the health of our school community.

We have today conducted a survey of students to ascertain their access to technology at home. We are committed to trying to provide the best possible access to all students and will throughout this week support families with no technology access through the distribution of work packages for student learning. These can be collected by the student at the school or posted home. Families who require access to work by this method are asked to contact the relevant Deputy Principal.

Mrs Krempin - Year 7 and Year 10

Mr Higgins - Year 8 and Year 11

Mrs Morrow - Year 9, Year 12 and Specialised Learning Students.

Ms Berejiklian said "all schools in NSW will provide online learning options for the remaining three weeks of Term 1. It remains unclear what will happen after the school holidays". Classes are due to resume for all students at Whitebridge High School on Monday 27th April with the school having rescheduled its School Development Day to Friday May 1st.

Whilst students are learning from home, they are encouraged to follow the schedule outlined in their normal school timetable to maintain high levels of engagement and productivity. That is, they should access the online learning for each subject as it appears in sequence on their daily timetable. Tomorrow is Tuesday Week A. Class teachers will make themselves available online for questions and support of students during the class scheduled time. The time and forum for the live communication with the teacher will be advised for each respective class in their google classroom.

As these initiatives are commencing from today, it important that students are patient this week as we transition to this new model.

From tomorrow we have a number of staff who will be working from home as a result of them being in the high risk category and some staff who are required to take leave to support family. As we have limited casual staff available for employment at this time some teachers will not be readily available and their workload will be picked up by existing staff.

NAPLAN for Years 7 and 9 has been cancelled for this year.

School assessments and hand in research tasks previously scheduled will continue as planned with staff advising appropriate methods for submitting work.

NESA's Board is meeting tomorrow night (Tuesday) and will provide further advice as to the HSC, assessments, major works and the HSC exams later in the week. As soon as I have this information I will share it with you.

Individual Teachers and Head Teachers will communicate with students how they are to complete tasks using the online platforms. Our school will operate through the google classroom for most class groups and staff have communicated with students directly in relation to the class codes and access points for their learning.

In addition, teachers will email students using their @education emails with any further information or work that may be required.

Due to the large number of students each teacher teaches I ask that parents access this work via their children and do not email the school asking for individual work to be provided. Teachers will be continuing to plan units of work for our students over the coming days and weeks and responding to student's online questions, emails, and clarifying learning.

The school canteen will be available tomorrow however there is a plan to reduce this service across the week. I will provide advice prior to the closure of this service.

Our school continues to have in place additional sanitiser stations, plenty of soap in all wet areas and bathrooms and hard surface cleaning protocols in all classrooms. Any student who is attending school must observe the social distancing protocols, maintain appropriate hand sanitation and take personal responsibility for ensuring they are considerate of the impact they have on the safety of other students, staff and the wider community.

Students must not attend school if they are sick or unwell.

Thank you for helping us to support our community in maintaining Education whilst we all take caution through this challenging health crisis.

Sincerely

Nadene Harvey

Principal