



School Operation from Friday August 6 - Thursday August 12 2021

Good afternoon Parents and Caregivers,

We have been informed earlier today from the Premier that the entire Hunter Region will be in lock down from 5pm today, until Thursday August 12. The Department of Education have just released an update on COVID restrictions that apply to schools in our Glenrock Lake Macquarie area for a minimum period of one week from today. Schools have been asked to reduce staff to a **minimum**. Due to the reduction in staff at school we are relying on our parents and carers to help keep our schools safe by adhering to the following advice.

Parents and carers must keep children – across primary and secondary school – at home unless they need to be at school. Schools and outside of school hours care (OOSHC) services are only open for a child that needs it.

This applies to schools in Cessnock, Dungog, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Muswellbrook, Newcastle, Port Stephens and Singleton from 5pm 5 August until 12:01am Friday 13 August.

This means that all schools in the Hunter will be at Level 4 Restrictions during that time. Please see what these restrictions are as below:

1. Our school will be delivering learning from home. Students have been advised and supported today during class to ensure they can access the learning from home materials. No child will be turned away from school, if this is the families **only** option.
2. Plans for working from home have been organised by the school. We will follow the same protocol as last year. The details of curriculum access and the structure of the day can be found on our website. To access our Whitebridge High School Learning from home guide please follow the link below – <https://whitebridg-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/learning-at-our-school/learning-from-home.html>
3. Where it is necessary for staff and students to be at school, any person on the school site school must follow Level 3 Guidelines. This does include mandatory use of face masks for all students year seven and above and all staff while indoors.
4. The community cannot access any school facilities, either during school hours or after.
5. The school canteen will not be open.

Curriculum Access

The curriculum overview for this time will be set out the same way that it was for last year. Students have, over the last 2 weeks and again today been engaging in practice sessions for learning from home. Students have been provided clear access to their learning from home access codes for each course of study. We will follow the regular school timetable to maintain as normal a daily routine as is manageable in each of your homes. Laptops have today been loaned to students who have indicated they needed support to access online learning. Work booklets have also been provided to students where requested.

Delivery

Along with the online curriculum supports we have created a daily structure for all students and teachers. Our students will follow the regular daily timetable.

They will check in with their first period teacher for **roll call** via the identified period 1 class online platform at 8.55am – 9.10am. This will be an important part of our daily check in and wellbeing supports to maintain our connection with students and to record attendance during online learning.

For each period throughout the day, teachers will upload the course work to be completed and will be available to connect with students via online or video chat in the first 10 minutes of each lesson. This will enable students to seek clarification, ask questions, be supported with explicit instruction and feedback before engaging in self-paced progress on the identified tasks. Students will be able to submit their completed work through the online class platform for teacher feedback.

We recognise that online learning is challenging at times for families to manage, and students may be sharing laptops and workspaces with parents also trying to work from home. To support our families and to manage a balance of online time, we have adjusted the direct connection time for all students after period 4 with the period 5 session being entirely independent and self-paced. Teachers will upload the work for students to complete at a time that suits the family schedule.

Assistance with access to curriculum or any aspect of learning from home can be provided by contacting the school directly on 49433966 or via the school email at whitebridg-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au, one of our staff will be able to offer support over the phone and or have a class teacher make contact with you or your child.

Student Expectations: Students, after checking in for roll call with their teacher will then complete work as directed throughout each day. Students are to be checking their department emails regularly through the school day for advice and information from staff.

If students are not logging in, or staff are not seeing evidence of them working, they will contact home and let parents know. Beyond this, if students are showing no sign of engagement, or parents are uncontactable, either executive or senior executive staff will make further contact. Our aim is to support our young people maintain continuity in their learning and continue to support progress in learning for all students.

Video Conferencing/Tutorial Sessions: We have not expected that the delivery of all lessons will take place on this platform. However, some lessons may be delivered in this format and will be directly negotiated in the relevant online classroom between the class and the teacher.

Year 12 – Trial examinations that were scheduled for tomorrow Friday 6th August have now been postponed, further details regarding Year 12 will be emailed as soon as it is available. Year 12 Society and Culture students should at this time continue to work towards the submission date of Monday 9th August for their HSC PIP, further details will be emailed direct to students and families of Year 12 students once advice has been received from NESA.

Online learning for Year 12 will continue as for all students and staff will directly negotiate the contact time with each class in accordance with their timetable.

Take care, stay safe and please contact the school if you have any concerns

Kind Regards

Nadene Harvey

Principal Whitebridge High School

Thursday August 5th, 2021