
Macquarie College COVID-19 Update 15 ~ 3 April

1 message

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Good morning Parents and Carers,

Below is a further update from Macquarie College in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Continuity of Learning and MC Cloud Adjustments

As stated by the Prime Minister this past week, schools and, in our case, Macquarie College, continue to be safe places for students to attend. And as has been previously published, K-12 classes at Macquarie College will continue via MC Cloud through until the final day of Term 1 - Thursday 9 April. The first day of the term break being Good Friday 10 April.

Unless advised otherwise by the NSW Government, K-12 classes via MC Cloud will then resume as scheduled on Monday 27 April.

Over the coming weeks Macquarie College will be making a number of subtle changes to both the Junior and Senior School schedules and the MC Cloud interface to assist in making the learning experience and use of the MC Cloud platform by students and teachers more sustainable.

A gentle reminder also for parents/carers to continue using normal protocols when communicating with teachers. You are welcome to email teachers or to call the College as per normal. We do ask that parents and carers do not enter Google Meets or other virtual classroom platforms. There may be situations in the younger years where parental involvement is needed, but as a general rule, please do not enter unless specifically asked to do so by a teacher. This reminder is so that we can continue the classroom culture as a learning experience between students and teachers, and parents and carers can continue to use established communication channels.

HSC Update

The following HSC media release was provided by NESAs on 2 April:

HSC Changes Protect Health and Safety of Students

Chair of the NESAs Board, Professor Peter Shergold today announced a number of key decisions about the 2020 HSC made by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESAs) COVID-19 Response Committee to protect the health and safety of students, teachers and parents during this challenging time.

Effective immediately, the Committee has agreed to:

- give Principals and system authorities the power to determine the number, type and weighting of tasks for Year 11 school based assessment, in line with the decision communicated last week for HSC students
- lift the requirement for VET students to undertake NESAs work placements
- cancel mandatory group performance exam in Drama and the mandatory ensemble performance exam in Music Extension.
- modify other performance exams that breach social distancing requirements.

The Committee will meet next week to provide advice on major projects for Visual Arts, Design and Technology, Industrial Technology, Textiles and Design, English Ext 2 and Society and Culture.

Professor Shergold said today's decisions and every future decision made by the Committee will prioritise the adoption of arrangements for the 2020 HSC that are practical and do not

disadvantage any student.

“The Committee is continuing to meet weekly to address issues and provide up to date advice.

“I can say with certainty that students will have the opportunity to receive their HSC credential this year, so students should continue to learn, complete their assessments and taking care of themselves.

“This year’s HSC students will be able to continue with the next chapter of their lives, whether that’s university, an apprenticeship or TAFE,” Professor Shergold said.

A Technical Advisory Committee of assessment experts and key stakeholders is currently working to establish a fair and equitable way to calculate a mark for each of the cancelled components of the HSC. NESA will communicate this process as soon as it is finalised.

Keeping the Wheels of Progress Turning

While the day-to-day operation of Macquarie College currently looks quite different to a regular term period, the school is taking the opportunity to move ahead with a number of key projects which were already scheduled for this year. Below is a short summary of the progress to date with a number of those projects:

Junior School Playground - Following a parent engagement session earlier this term, keep an eye on emails from Ms Bentley over the coming weeks as she continues to engage with our students in relation to the planning which is currently underway to completely replace the existing Junior School playground with an interactive, nature-based play area. It is intended that the construction of this project will be completed during Term 3 of this year.

Refurbishment of the Library - Recent visitors to our Library will have noticed that we have received an order of new furniture, and with several other pieces yet to arrive, the Library already has a new feel. However, over the coming weeks both the carpet and walls in the Library are also being replaced/updated in what will be a major refurbishment of that learning space. A quick shout-out here to our dedicated Library team who have been busy wrapping book bundles for our enthusiastic at-home readers! Well done guys.

Resurfacing of the COLA - Also scheduled over the coming months is the resurfacing of the COLA surface. This is a popular space for both Junior and Senior students to both gather socially and also play various ball sports. This new surface will improve the sports/games experience of our students.

Scholarships - Over the past couple of months we've had a team working away in the background on a major refresh of our scholarships program. With a broader range of scholarships to be made available, this will be an exciting time for our students. So, if you're interested in a scholarship at Macquarie College, either for next year or at some point into the future, look out for an announcement/launch of our new scholarships program in the coming weeks.

Macquarie College will continue to monitor the current Government advice in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak and provide further updates as relevant to our community.

Kind regards,

Rohan Deanshaw

Principal

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