



HURLSTONE
AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL

Family Update - Week 9

Friday 10 September 2021

Dear Hurlstone students and families,

With only one week remaining, we are on the home stretch!

School Administrative and Support Staff (SASS) Recognition Week

On behalf of our entire school community, we wish to express our appreciation for our incredible SASS team. Their work is critical to the functioning of our school and to supporting the needs of our students every day. Our school couldn't operate as well as it does without the expertise of our School Administration Manager and Business Manager, School Administration Officers, School Learning Support Officers (SLSOs), General Assistants and Student Support Officer.

It is not only during SASS Recognition Week but every week that we see the dedication and professionalism of our SAS staff. They are often the first point of contact with the school for new families and members of the community, and their agility in pivoting to new ways of doing things to accommodate working and learning from home has been nothing short of phenomenal.

Please join us in thanking them at the next available opportunity.

R U OK? Day

On Thursday, our staff and students acknowledged R U OK? Day by wearing or displaying the colour yellow. R U OK? is a harm prevention charity that encourages people to stay connected and have conversations that can help others through difficult times in their lives.

This year's theme - *Are they really OK? Ask them today* - reminded us to make a moment meaningful by asking others how they're really going, not waiting until someone is visibly distressed or in crisis. When we reach out to the people around us and ask about their struggles, our genuine support can make a difference. Learn what to say when someone says they're not OK so you can continue a conversation that could change a life by visiting the R U OK? website: <https://www.ruok.org.au/how-to-ask>.

HSC timetable and COVID-safe plan for exams released by NESA

The NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) has today released a [revised timetable](#) for the HSC examinations beginning 9 November and ending on 3 December. NESA will provide HSC data to UAC so that ATARs can be released just before HSC results are released on 24 January 2022.

A COVID-safe plan for exams will be in place including mandatory double dose vaccination for all staff on site (including presiding officers and exam supervisors), strict protocols to reduce mingling, distancing in exam rooms, masks worn indoors and outdoors, check-in and health screening as well as ventilated exam rooms. HSC students are also being strongly encouraged to get vaccinated in time for their exams.

Year 12 students who have not yet made their vaccination booking can still do so via the [eligibility checker](#). The [illness and misadventure process](#) is available for students who are unable to attend an exam due to having a positive COVID-19 test result, being a close contact or having COVID-19 symptoms.

Stay COVID safe

Please continue to check the department's *Advice for Families* (<https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families>) for more information on the roadmap to face-to-face learning, restriction levels, NSW Health run COVID-19 vaccinations for students program and updated advice about travel between areas with a stay-at-home order.

Should anyone in your home be impacted by a positive COVID-19 result, please let the school know so we can provide support.

Screen Free Day

The Wellbeing Team have been running some fantastic activities to support student wellbeing this week. A Screen Free Day for students has been planned for Week 10 - more details will be provided early next week.

Celebrating this week's successes

It is pleasing to see our students continue to engage in a range of extracurricular activities throughout the learning from home period. These activities present opportunities to develop their talent in the socioemotional and creative domains and help them to become confident and creative members of the community.

Students are encouraged to check the emails sent by the Careers Adviser regularly for updates about extracurricular activities taking place during lockdown. There are opportunities to enter competitions, attend webinars and engage in a variety of online events. Not only are these interesting and rewarding experiences, but they also allow students to extend themselves beyond the learning that takes place in the virtual classroom to develop the knowledge and attributes they need to flourish. Students may wish to include their participation in these activities on scholarship, university early entry and award applications.

Mock Trial

The Mock Trial Competition is a program run annually by the Law Society of NSW that offers high school students an opportunity to participate in a mock court, providing practical experience into the running of a court case in a true-to-life adversarial setting while introducing them to the NSW judicial system. Recently, the Hurlstone Mock Trial Team participated in an online mock trial against James Ruse over Zoom. Our students can be commended for showcasing their advocacy, teamwork, debating and problem-solving skills with great maturity and professionalism.

ASMR Medical Research Week Online Schools Quiz

Congratulations to Kalea Lee for achieving the highest place in the 2021 Australian Society of Medical Research (ASMR) Online High School Quiz for the Years 9-10 age group. This decision was based on Kalea's quiz score and the creativity and thoughtfulness of her optional open-ended response, which highlighted an awareness of today's most relevant medical issues and expresses a keen interest for future medical careers.

Thank you all for another successful week of learning from home. Please enjoy the weekend with some time away from the screen and quality time with one another.

Kind regards,

Christine Castle, Principal and the Senior Executive
Hurlstone Agricultural High School