



## Family Update - Week 10

Friday 17 September 2021

Dear Hurlstone students and families,

This afternoon we held our end of term assemblies virtually over Zoom to mark the end of very long and challenging term for our Hurlstone community. We celebrated the resilience and hard work all students, families, carers and staff have displayed this term in learning and working from home.

Today's assembly also represented the end of the last official day of school for year 12. Today is a day that signifies the end of 13 years of continuous schooling, and with this comes so many memories for students and teachers. The complexities that year 12 students have faced leading up to this day would have been unimaginable even twelve months ago: at this time of year, Year 12 usually entertain our school community with student-led activities and challenges, farewell speeches and performances. The current lockdown has prevented these celebratory events from taking place on school grounds. However, while we are physically distanced at this time, as a school community we are united in our shared vision and pride in our school. We are very proud of every student, staff member and family unit in the way they have sought to overcome the challenges faced each day.

To our wonderful year 12 students who make up the Class of 2021: please remember that your families, fellow students, teachers and SASS staff are so proud of you. The constantly changing messaging in the media and drip feed release of details emerging from the pandemic for staff, families and students has been challenging to say the least, but you have endured this time with grace and dignity, and we could not be prouder. Your Deputy Principal, Ms Young and your Year Advisers, Mr Trotter and Ms Dayaganon are very proud of you. Our staff and your families know that you will continue to be the positive changemakers that Hurlstonians are fiercely known for and your peers will hear about in years to come. You will be remembered in our Hurlstone history books but also in the history of a global pandemic. We look forward to seeing you once again on your graduation day as well celebrating with your parents at the conclusion of the school year.

On a positive note, recent research shows that Australians are embracing the healing benefits of the arts and exercising their creative muscles, even in the midst of a pandemic-fuelled mental health crisis. We have all been humbled by the courage and commitment of essential workers across the world dedicating their expertise and precious time and service to support a world in crisis, and our gratitude extends to many of our Hurlstone family who are working on the front line in the health profession every day. We have been so inspired by the work of our own teachers and support staff navigating this space. We are most proud of every student in their journey learning from home. Where there have been challenges, innovation, compassion for others and creativity have also flourished. In an article titled [What the response to Covid-19 can teach us about creativity](#), adjunct professor at the London Business School Richard Hytner writes:

"Like all skills in life, mastery of creative thinking requires practice and an encouragement to play, experiment, fail and persevere."

Over the holiday break, we will be sending out a special delivery to all students with a creative challenge inside. We hope this will inspire you to play, experiment with trial and error and ultimately persevere in your endeavours before 'paying it forward' to others.

I wish every student, staff member and family a safe and restful break.

**Christine Castle,  
Principal**

## **Term 4 2021**

Term 4 will commence for all students on Tuesday 5 October (Monday 4 October is a public holiday).

All students will continue learning from home at the start of Term 4.

While [Level 4 plus restrictions](#) for our LGA remain in place, our students will not return to face-to-face learning on site at school until this situation changes.

## **Year 12 HSC preparation**

Today marked the final school day for Year 12 students. In the interim between the start of Term 4 and the HSC exams, our school will continue to support HSC students in their preparation for their exams.

Year 12 students were surveyed at the end of last week and we want to thank them for their feedback on a number of proposed models for HSC preparation in Term 4.

Staff teaching HSC students will still be available during their timetabled periods next term to provide support to students.

We look forward to seeing our Year 12 students face-to-face after they have finished their HSC exams for their formal graduation in December.

## **HSC 2022**

Year 11 students will be commencing their HSC courses next term.

To enrol in an Extension course or change their pattern of study, students must follow the Subject Change process sent by Mr Craig to their NSW Department of Education email. Students must ensure these forms are signed by their parent/carer and submit this form as soon as possible, as Extension classes will begin in Week 2.

Students will be required to attend all classes on their existing timetable until a new timetable reflecting any approved subject changes is published on Sentral.

## **NAPLAN**

NAPLAN results for Years 7 and 9 have now been released.

Arrangements have been made for NAPLAN individual student reports to be posted home over the holidays.

NAPLAN individual student reports provide information about what students know and have achieved in the areas of reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy. The reports also provide information on how students have performed against the national average (over one million students participate in NAPLAN tests each year) and the national minimum standards.

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

A reminder that HSC students can find the [revised timetable](#) for the HSC examinations beginning 9 November and ending on 3 December on the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) website. 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.

## **Priority vaccines for HSC students**

Second dose appointments for HSC/Year 12 students who live or study in LGAs of concern will begin next Monday 20 September. Students booked both appointments at Qudos Bank Arena as part of the initial booking process.

If students did not receive a vaccination at Qudos Bank Arena in the week of 9 August, they cannot access this clinic. These students should be encouraged to book a vaccination appointment via the [Eligibility checker](#).

## **All people aged 16 and above are now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination**

Please be advised that all students aged 16 and over will receive a direct email with advice from NSW Health in relation to vaccinations being available to everyone 16 and over.

Further information about these vaccinations can be found on the NSW Health website or by speaking to your GP or the COVID19 Government hotline: **1800 020 080**.

## **Anyone aged 12 to 15 now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination**

People aged 12 to 15 are now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination. Parents and carers can [book in their children for Pfizer now](#), or Moderna from late September.

Vaccination appointments are available at more than 3,000 locations across NSW, including GPs and pharmacies. More appointments will become available as supply increases, so keep checking the NSW Health website for new appointments in coming weeks.

Please refer to the [NSW Government's COVID-19 vaccination bookings for 12-15- year-olds page](#) for more information.

## **Celebrating student success**

In these upcoming holidays, Hurlstone's winning team SMSR from Ms Pham's Year 10 Commerce class will receive a mentoring session with the Vice President of Microsoft Education.

As the global top 10 winners of the Microsoft Imagine Cup Junior AI for Good Challenge 2021, team members Elana Ha, Kiran Kaur, Jade Qui and Tanisha Sethi will share more about their AI for Humanitarian Action project and ask Microsoft Education VP Anthony Salcito questions about Artificial Intelligence, their studies, future careers and working at Microsoft. They will also get to chat with the other winning teams from Canada, China, Hong Kong, India, Singapore and USA.

For more about the team's entry, please watch the video (starting at 17 minutes 13 seconds) found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vXC3Gn4FfJ4>.

## **Screen Free Day – postponed to Term 4**

Due to a number of assessments running throughout Week 10, we were unable to run a whole school Screen Free Day for our students. However, we do plan to revisit this next term as we continue to learn from home.

## **Support for online learning**

The School of Education at Western Sydney University has kindly shared some amazing resources for families to support their children during online learning. These include fact sheets for parents of both primary and secondary students, covering topics ranging from Maths and English to wellbeing and motivation. These are currently being translated into Arabic, Chinese, and Vietnamese and some are already available to download.

Please follow this link to access the fact sheets: <https://tinyurl.com/eknhomeschool>.

### *Vietnamese translation*

Khoa Giáo Dục thuộc Trường Đại Học Western Sydney đã chia sẻ một số tài liệu tuyệt vời với cộng đồng để hỗ trợ học sinh học tại nhà. Bộ tài liệu này chứa thông tin hỗ trợ dành cho phụ huynh của học sinh tiểu học lẫn trung học, bao gồm các chủ đề như Toán và tiếng Anh, cho tới cách tạo động lực học hay cách giữ cho tinh thần phấn chấn. Bộ tài liệu này đang được dịch ra tiếng Ả Rập, tiếng Trung Quốc, và tiếng Việt. Một số chương đã được dịch xong và có thể tải về từ bây giờ. Xin vui lòng nhấn vào link này để truy cập bộ tài liệu: <https://tinyurl.com/eknhomeschool>

### *Chinese translation*

西悉尼大学教育学院慷慨地分享了一些宝贵的资源，为在家在线学习的孩子们提供支持。其中包括面向小学生和中学生家长的学习指南，涵盖从数学和英语到学生的幸福感和如何提高学习积极性的各个主题。这些目前正在被翻译成阿拉伯语、中文和越南语，有些已经可供下载。请点击此链接访问学习指南：  
<https://tinyurl.com/eknhomeschool>

### **Stay COVID safe – updated advice**

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.

### **Time to recharge**

Attached to this letter is a list of external wellbeing supports that can be accessed by students over the holidays.

The next two weeks represent an important break for our staff, students, families and community to take time out after what has been a long and challenging term. Please prioritise finding ways to practise some self-care to support your own mental health and wellbeing these holidays.

Have a safe, restful and joyful break. We look forward to seeing you all next term.

Kind regards,

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



## Wellbeing Supports

	<p><a href="https://kidshelpline.com.au/">https://kidshelpline.com.au/</a></p> <p>Kids Helpline is a free, confidential, 24/7 online and phone counselling service for people aged 5-25.</p> <p>Call <b>1800 55 1800</b> (24/7) Web Chat (24/7) Email Kids Helpline (details on the website)</p>
	<p><a href="https://www.lifeline.org.au/">https://www.lifeline.org.au/</a></p> <p>If you are struggling with self-harm or thoughts of suicide, it is important that you talk about it. Lifeline provides confidential, 24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services.</p> <p>Call <b>13 11 14</b> (24/7) Lifeline text (details on the website, 12pm-2am, 7 days a week) Chat online (12pm-2am, 7 days a week)</p>
	<p><a href="https://headspace.org.au/">https://headspace.org.au/</a></p> <p>Headspace is a mental health service for 12–25-year-olds.</p> <p><i>E-Headspace (free online and phone counselling):</i> Call <b>1800 650 890</b> (9am-1am, 7 days a week) Web Chat (9am-1am, 7 days a week) Email Headspace (details on the website)</p>
	<p><a href="https://www.beyondblue.org.au/">https://www.beyondblue.org.au/</a></p> <p>Beyond Blue provides information and support to help everyone in Australia achieve their best possible mental health.</p> <p>Call <b>1300 224 636</b> (24/7) Chat online (11am-12am, 7 days a week) Email Beyond Blue (details found on the website)</p>
	<p><a href="https://au.reachout.com/">https://au.reachout.com/</a></p> <p>ReachOut.com helps under 25s with everyday questions through to tough times.</p>

**IF YOU ARE IN IMMINENT DANGER, PLEASE CALL 000**