



Randwick Boys' High School

Telephone: 9399 3122 - 9399 3233 Facsimile: 9399 9546 Email: randwickb-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Cnr. Avoca & Rainbow Streets, Randwick NSW 2031

Dear all,

I trust you and your families are all well.

I would like to thank you all for your patience during these unprecedented times in our community and in our school. Randwick Boys' High School offers many things to the community; learning, teaching, opportunities, friendships, resilience, compassion, care, tolerance, life lessons among others.

Whatever happens in the lives of young people, our school remains a constant. A constant support for all students. A place they feel welcomed. A place where they feel connected. A place they can attempt new things. A place they can succeed and, at times, a place they can fail in a safe environment. A place they feel loved.

Our brilliant staff ensure our environment is unique. Where students do have access to an exclusive education in an inclusive environment.

Our exceptional parent community, especially our hardworking P & C, ensures that our students have as many opportunities to succeed as possible.

At present, and for the foreseeable future, the DELIVERY of learning at Randwick Boys' High School and all schools will change.

Students will, from today, have access to electronic lessons that our staff have prepared. Online learning is a term that is new to most. It will be the delivery method across the state in schools. All students and parents have access to Sentral. This platform will be our MAIN source of lesson delivery, over the next little while. ALL staff will be posting lessons to Sentral and we expect every student to complete this work. SOME staff are also using Google Classroom, as a SECONDARY platform but only after they have posted the work on Sentral. There are also staff exploring Zoom, a platform where students in a particular class 'dial in' and can see each other and complete work in real time!

Parents have been encouraged by the Premier of NSW, Hon Gladys Berejiklian, to keep students at home, wherever possible. As a Principal, I cannot instruct you what to do with your sons at this time. I can inform you of the fact that if I had a son or daughter of school age, he/she would not be attending school at this time. That would be my personal decision.



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If you decide to send your son to school at the moment, the school is still open. Our school will operate but not 'business as usual'. In fact, it is very much 'business as unusual'.

Mark Scott, Secretary Department of Education, yesterday informed Principals that, AT THIS STAGE, schools would remain open and operate with fewer students, catering for essential workers' children. Students who attend will receive supervision as they complete the same work online as those students who are remaining at home.

Mark Scott informed schools that:

School will remain open until the end of this term, however, parents are encouraged to keep their children at home. Schools will provide a safe place of learning for children of parents working for essential services including teaching.

- Schools will create one body of work for each year group in each key learning area that can be completed at home and at school.***
- Classes will be supervised to enable students in attendance to complete the unit of work. In this way schools will create flexible arrangements for organising supervision of classes.***
- School buses will still be operating.***

Traditional 'Teaching and Learning' will not take place at Randwick Boys' High school.

Traditional opportunities such as Sport, the Arts, Music, Practical subjects, will not take place at this time.

Parents who decide to keep their children at home are responsible for their supervision, safety and learning.

In terms of assessments, all assessments will be posted on SENTRAL. At this stage, students are to please ensure all deadlines are met, as per normal.

Year 12 assessment information is interesting. NESA and the Department of Education will meet today, Tuesday 24th March. I believe they also have input from the NSW Teachers Federation and the Secondary Principal's Council. They are deciding what will happen with Year 12 assessments under the current circumstances. I need to reassure all Year 12 students and parents, NO YEAR 12 STUDENT WILL BE DISADVANTAGED in 2020.



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NESA sent the following advice, yesterday:

NESA appreciates how hard you have been working to ensure the continuity of learning for students.

This morning NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian made a number of announcements, including:

- encouraging parents to keep students at home from tomorrow until the school holidays if practical
- that the health advice has not changed so schools are open and a safe place to be if it is not possible for parents to keep students at home
- that students will complete the same online unit of work whether they are at home or at school.

The NESA Board and CEO will meet on Tuesday 24 March, to discuss the education of senior students, particularly in the context of the HSC. Additional advice will be available later this week.

You will of course also be aware of the announcement made by education minister's nationally on Friday - that NAPLAN will not proceed in 2020.

Once NESA and the Department of Education formulates instructions for schools, parents and students will be informed.

Our Year 12 students should be preparing for their assessment block (Monday 30th March – Thursday 9th April) as, at this stage, it is going ahead as planned. This will mean that Year 12 students attend school for their assessment only and then return home. The hall will be set up with sufficient distance between each student to satisfy all social distancing requirements. IF we receive advice later in the week from NESA and the Department of Education, outlining that assessments will NOT proceed for Year 12 students, I will inform parents and students via email. IF there is to be a different method of the submission of assessments, again, you will be informed.

At this time, it is vitally important that parents monitor the health and wellbeing of your sons. If you feel he is ill, please contact your GP for advice and possible referral to other agencies. Please reassure your son that this situation will pass and, once instructed, our school will operate as it has before.



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If your son does not have access to a device (laptop, desktop etc), I urge parents to confidentially contact the school. We have a small number of devices that we are able to lend to students in this situation. Loans can be arranged. Further, if your son does not have access to the internet at home, please contact the school for investigation.

In terms of the school canteen, as of Tuesday 24th March, the canteen will open with **LIMITED STOCK** on Wednesday 25th March. After this date, the canteen will not operate.

DE State: No, canteens will not be open at schools. Students will need to be prepared with a packed lunch.

If you are unable to prepare a packed lunch for your child, please speak with the principal at your school so that alternative arrangements can be made.

As outlined below, the Department have also issued advice for schools to share with parents and the community. Included in this are links to 'Learning From Home'. On these sites, important information is available for students, parents and staff. Please click on the links for reference.



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Schools remain open

The health advice on schools remains unchanged. Our Chief Medical Officers indicate that our schools should remain open for education provision at this time.

The Government and Department are encouraging you to keep your child at home from Tuesday 24 March to contribute to supporting the community response to COVID-19. The school's doors will remain open for those students whose parents are in the essential services or who are vulnerable.

As updated expert information comes to the Department, who are in constant liaison with NSW Health we will keep you informed of any impact on school operations.

Supporting continuity of learning for all students

Our staff have been working hard to develop a suite of learning resources and options for students to undertake from home. The Department has developed and will continue to develop resources and offer professional learning to help teachers with this task.

Whether your child is at school or at home, the aim is for all students to access the consistent learning content provided by our school. This may mean sending work home, either with physical materials or by email, or by making use of one of our online platforms at our school.

Support for students at home

I encourage you to access the [Learning from Home](#) resource which provides practical advice to parents and carers on how to best create and support a productive learning environment in the home.



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Supporting continuity of learning for all students

School teams have been working hard to develop learning options for students to undertake from home should that become necessary. At the Department level, we have developed and continue to develop resources to help teachers with this task.

In the event of students or teachers required to be off campus, teachers will be supported to teach online through a virtual platform, or materials and packages of materials provided to students electronically or in hard copy. More information can be found here:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-from-home>

School leadership teams can seek support from the department, via their Director Educational Leadership, if schools need further support.

If the current advice from NSW Health continues, schools will reopen for Term 2 after the Easter break. This model of teaching delivery may continue in Term 2 if necessary.

Again, I would like to thank our school community for their patience, support and understanding during these times. As stated to all staff today, at a time like this, it is so important that we stay positive, stay strong and stay safe. I urge everyone in our community to do the same.

Lastly, once the Department of Education informs schools of further information regarding COVID-19, it will be passed on to you as soon as practicable.

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