



2022 BACKCHAT IN BRIEF #15 (T3,W1)

Welcome back to Term 3 which is an important term for many different year groups. Years 8 and 10 have selected their electives for next year and will find out their subjects in the coming weeks. Year 11 will be completing their last term of Year 11 Preliminary Course Work, before commencing their HSC Course in Term 4. Most importantly, it is Year 12's final school term with their Trial Examinations commencing in Week 4 of this term.

Department COVID Updated Guidelines

We have received several enquiries this week about the policy and guidelines in relation to **'close contact'**. The policy highlights the following for a student who is a close contact.

- They should conduct a **daily rapid antigen test (RAT) and return a negative result each morning before attending school for 5 school days**. School can provide you with additional tests at your request.
- They (if in a secondary school setting) **must wear a mask** indoors except when eating or exercising.
- No student identified as a close contact will be permitted to participate in overnight excursions, including school camps.

Please note that the only exception to this policy is if a student has had a confirmed COVID in the last 4 weeks, they do not have to comply with these guidelines if they become a household or close contact and are not required to self-isolate or test unless they develop new COVID symptoms. Any students who return to school after recovering from COVID must wear a mask for days 8, 9 and 10.

Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) will continue to be available and supplied to schools for distribution to all students and staff in Term 3.

However, we continue to request, and do greatly appreciate parents who:

- Keeping students home if they have **ANY** symptom of being unwell, however mild, and use the provided RAT kit.
- Follow normal absentee procedures, should your son be too unwell to attend school.

Parent and Teacher Evening – Tuesday 26th July (POSTPONED!)

In relation to the new guidelines and to endeavour to prevent the spread of COVID and the flu viruses in the first 4-5 weeks of this term, as well as ensuring that we can continue to staff all classes, remain open and operational as a school during this time. We have decided to postpone the Parent and Teacher Evening from Tuesday 26th July to ensure that our parent community and staff remain healthy despite the concerning increase in recent weeks in relation to both the COVID and Flu viruses. This is not a decision that we have taken lightly, and every effort will be made to accommodate an opportunity for you to interact with your son's teacher in relation to their performance and classroom efforts in semester 1.

Term 3 – Year 11 and 12

Term 3 is a very important term for all our students, but it is especially important for Year 11 and 12. This is the final term for the Preliminary Course of studies for Year 11 and for Year 12 their very last school term. For Year 12 they will have their Trial Examinations in Week 4 and 5, where they will be introduced to Ms Melissa Maher. Ms Maher will be the supervising officer for their HSC Examinations in Term 4, and we have engaged her to also coordinate and administer the Trial Examinations for our students. This is a successful practice that we have been implementing at Asquith Boys High School for a couple of years. We will continue to do so as it enables the students and Melissa to become familiar with not only each other, but the actual HSC practices and procedures. This has resulted in the significant alleviation of any unwarranted anxiety around consistent implementation for the actual HSC examinations for the Year 12 students in the past and we believe that it will also be the same for this year group.

Mobile Phone Policy

Thank you to the staff and most importantly the student body for their overwhelming support and response to the successfully implemented new 'Mobile Phone Policy'. Since implementing this policy there has been 80 students who have been reported for breaching this policy and most importantly only 12 are repeat offenders. An excellent set of data by all accounts. This will again be reinforced in the new term, with the focus on ensuring that all our students in all year groups, continue to remain on task in the classroom.

Congratulations to:

- Ethan and Riley Scott-Branagan who were both in the victorious Sydney North Lawn Bowls team who won the recent NSWCHS Championships.
- Ethan who was not only captain of the Sydney North team but was named player of the tournament and selected into the NSW Team for the upcoming National Championships in September.



Mr Bryce Grant

Principal

20 July 2022