

4 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As mentioned in my previous correspondence with the school community, we have been planning for a gradual and staggered return to campus for students from the 11<sup>th</sup> of May onwards. The purpose of my communication is to provide you with an overview of our plan to return to face-to-face learning. We understand that this is a complex issue with ranging views in the community. Our decisions have been made in line with government health advice provided to schools, which states that schools are safe and social distancing measures do not apply to children in classrooms.

We have all missed our students and would love to have them back to full-time on-campus learning in the not too distant future. In order to achieve this, we have organised a gradual return to face-to-face learning so that we can carefully bring them back as well as ensure the necessary safety measures are in place. We anticipate that this first phase will last two weeks (Week 3 and 4), and the next stage of students returning to campus will be communicated to the school community as soon as we have clarity.

**Q1) Will the current practice continue? That is, can children of essential workers or of those who are unable to provide supervision at home, attend school every day?**

A1) At Amity College, we understand the significance of supporting the attendance of children of essential services workers, and the many other children who are not in a position to be supervised at home. These children may attend school as necessary. However, other children should attend school on their scheduled day only, in order to provide a smooth transition to return to school.

**Q2) How will the staggered return work?**

A2) Below you will find a schedule of the days your child is rostered to be on campus. You will realise that Year 12 students will attend school every day for obvious reasons while Kindergarten students, due to their crucial developmental needs, will be on campus two days a week whilst students from all other year levels are scheduled to be on campus one day a week.

We structured the schedules to best suit our staff, students and families, and we do apologise if you have more than one child that is scheduled to attend on alternate days in the week.

|              | MONDAY       | TUESDAY       | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY       | FRIDAY       |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|
| BHS          | Y7 and Y12   | Y8 and Y12    | Y11 and Y12 | Y9 and Y12     | Y10 and Y12  |
| GHS          | Y9 and Y12   | Y10 and Y12   | Y11 and Y12 | Y7 and Y12     | Y8 and Y12   |
| AUBURN       | Kindergarten | Y1 and Y2     | Y3 and Y5   | Y4 and Y6      | Kindergarten |
| ILLAWARRA    | Kindergarten | Y5-Y6 & Y7-Y8 | Y3 and Y4   | Y1-Y2 & Y9-Y10 | Kindergarten |
| PRESTONS PRI | Kindergarten | Y5 and Y6     | Y3 and Y4   | Y1 and Y2      | Kindergarten |

In order to assist us in effectively planning for the staggered return of students from Monday, the 11<sup>th</sup> of May onwards, we kindly ask that you complete the Attendance Survey via the link provided in the sms/text message sent for this letter.

[www.amity.nsw.edu.au](http://www.amity.nsw.edu.au)

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**Q3) Is the school safe? What hygiene measures are in place at Amity College to support students returning to school safely?**

A3) Yes. We have promoted and implemented increased hygiene practices on each of our campuses by the provision of hospital-grade antibacterial cleaning products, hand sanitisers and displaying health/hygiene and social distancing posters in common areas.

**Q4) What if a member of my family is vulnerable or has a compromised immunity and I do not feel comfortable sending my child to school?**

A4) Although one day a week attendance is highly recommended for a smooth transition to on-campus learning, we understand that parents will have health and safety concerns for their children or household members. These children will continue to learn remotely, with the only exception of scheduled days, where no live sessions or teacher feedback will be possible as teachers will be busy with face-to-face teaching on these days.

**Q5) Is there any regulation with drop-off/pick-up times? Can parents enter school quadrangle/classes?**

A5) Parents should minimise the time they spend during drop-off and pick-up. Car park conversations with other parents are discouraged and entering the school quadrangle/classes, even if it is to speak with teachers, will not be possible. If you wish to discuss anything about your child with a staff member, please make contact via email or an appointment through the school reception if the matter is urgent.

**Q6) What if my child has mild flu-like symptoms?**

A6) As strongly advised in previous communications, for the well-being of the entire school community, please keep your child home if they are displaying any mild flu-like symptoms until fully recovered.

**Q7) Which resources should my child bring to school on the day/s they will attend?**

A7) Students should come to school prepared depending on the scheduled classes on the day. As always, students must adhere to the full school uniform during school attendance.

Students in primary should bring all books back to school, as well as all stationery items. Relevant books will be sent back home for remote learning.

**Q8) Will the canteen and school buses be operational?**

A8) Yes. Please contact the privately run bus company, Choppers Transport, in order to arrange your child's transport on scheduled day/s. Dedicated public school buses will also be operational.

Thank you once again for your support and continued trust in us. We will keep you updated as further developments and decisions are finalised.

Yours sincerely,



Deniz Erdogan  
Executive Principal

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