

Principal Mark Sutton 50 Spencer Road Cecil Hills NSW 2171 www.cecilhillshigh.nsw.edu.au Tel (02) 9822-1430 Fax (02) 9822-1436 cecilhills-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

CRICOS: NSW Department of Education – Schools CRICOS Provider: 00588M

2022 RETURN TO SCHOOL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Dear parents and carers,

I trust you are having an enjoyable school holiday period with your children. We are excited to commence a new school year. As you may be aware, announcements have been made by the NSW Premier and Minister for Education on the return to school. This letter provides a summary of key information and applies to both mainstream and support unit students.

COVID Measures

We will start 2022 with a layered approach to COVID measures developed in partnership with NSW Health to help minimise transmissions at school. These measures are designed to help keep our school open and our students learning in the classroom.

We will continue to use good hygiene, enhanced cleaning, good air flow and ventilation in learning spaces. Ventilation guidelines indicate that natural ventilation is the most effective measure. We will maximise fresh air flow in learning spaces through opening doors and windows.

We will continue to follow physical distancing guidelines and maintain a 1.5 metre distance wherever possible.

Rapid Antigen Testing - Collection

We will distribute packs of RAT kits to all parents and staff at the start of Term 1. RATs are a quick and easy screening tool to help detect COVID-19. It is a simple process of placing a nose or throat swab in a chemical solution, which is put onto a scanning device. Results are ready within 15 minutes. Use of RATs is highly recommended but not mandatory.

Instructions are included in the kits detailing how to use the tests. You can also download the instructions through the Therapeutic Goods Administration website:

https://www.tga.gov.au/covid-19-rapid-antigen-self-tests-are-approved-australia

In order to minimise congestion, parents are required to attend the school at the following times to collect their RAT kits according to the surname of their child/ren:

	Time	Child's Surname Starts With	
Friday, 28 January 2022	9:30am to 12pm	ABCDE	
Friday, 28 January 2022	12:30pm to 3pm	FGHIJK	
Friday, 28 January 2022	3pm to 5pm	LMNOP	
Monday, 31 January 2022	9:30am to 12pm	QRST	
Monday, 31 January 2022	12:30pm to 3pm	UVWXYZ	



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It is important for parents to follow this timetable to avoid congestion. Parents will be required to bring proof of identification to collect their RAT kits. RAT kits will be distributed in two areas:

- <u>Parents who are driving</u> are asked to drive into the school grounds in the area marked in yellow and drive around the support unit turning circle to collect their RAT kits (see below).
- <u>Parents who are walking</u> are asked to enter via the main pedestrian gate in the area marked in blue and collect their RAT kits from outside the front office area (see below).



Parents should leave the school site immediately after picking up their RAT kits. If a parent is unable to come to school at their allocated time, they should contact the front office.

Rapid Antigen Testing – Other Information

It is the responsibility of parents to administer the RAT to their children. RATs will not be administered by school staff. Each student will receive a two week supply of four RATs. The RAT is to be completed twice weekly at home on Monday and Wednesday mornings.

If a student or staff member receives a positive RAT or PCR result, they need to:

- report the positive RAT result through the Service NSW website or app
- notify the school of the positive RAT or PCR test result as soon as possible
- follow NSW Health advice and isolate for 7 day



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You can access NSW Health isolation advice here:

https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/self-isolation-and-testing.aspx

Information on RATs is available in Arabic and Vietnamese here:

Arabic	https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-		
	01/Using%20a%20rapid%20antigen%20test%20Arabic.pdf		
Vietnamese	https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-		
	01/Using%20a%20rapid%20antigen%20test%20Vietnamese.pdf		

Student with COVID Symptoms

Any student who is unwell or displays symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to go home and stay home until they complete a RAT or PCR test.

- If symptoms continue, they should stay at home and complete another RAT in 24 hours or complete a PCR test.
- If the second RAT or initial PCR test result is negative, the student or staff member can return to school.

Positive Cases

Under new close contact rules, schools are no longer included in contact tracing. We will inform the school community when there is a positive case in our school and advise families on public health advice, including monitoring for symptoms.

Face Masks

All students and staff are required to wear surgical masks indoors (unless an exemption applies). No vented or cloth masks should be worn. Students should bring their own surgical mask to school, however, students will be provided with a surgical mask as a backup if needed.

Masks are strongly encouraged in outdoor settings where physically distancing is not possible. Your child can remove their mask when eating, exercising or playing a musical instrument.

The NSW Government website has further information on face masks:

https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/stay-safe/face-masks



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Cohorting

Students will be kept in their year groups on school grounds, with staggered start and end times and different playgrounds to minimise the spread of COVID-19 across cohorts.

We will adopt a different cohorting model compared with last year. We will resume our normal timetable with some modifications:

Time	Period	Notes		
8:30am	Connect	 Year 11/12 to arrive at 8:25am Year 9/10 to arrive at 8:30am Year 7/8 to arrive at 8:35am Students go directly to their Connect room upon arrival and wait outside their Connect classroom. 		
8:55am	Period 1			
10:10am	Recess	Year 7/8 commence recess at 10am.		
10:35am	Period 2			
11:50am	5 Minute Break	Students proceed to their Period 3 class.		
11:55am	Period 3			
1:10pm	Lunch	Year 7/8 commence lunch at 12:50pm. Year 9/10 commence lunch at 1pm. Year 11/12 commence lunch at 1:10pm.		
1:40pm	Period 4	Year 7/8 dismissed at 2:45pm. Year 9/10 dismissed at 2:50pm. Year 11/12 dismissed at 2:55pm.		

At the canteen, there will be one line for each grade. Students are required to line up in their grade line and not mix with students from other grades.

Unless a student is accessing the canteen, library, toilets or seeing a teacher, they are required to remain in the following areas at recess and lunch:

Year 7	Netball Courts Around McGregor Centre	Year 10	Main Quad
Year 8	Basketball Courts Back of D Block	Year 11	TAS Quad
Year 9	Football Field / Volleyball Courts Front / Back / Side of E Block	Year 12	CAPA Quad

These areas will be reviewed after the first week with the intention of grades rotating to different areas each week. In terms of wet weather, all of these areas have undercover spaces except for the netball courts / McGregor Centre area for Year 7. In the event of wet weather, Year 7 will be able to access the gym.



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Support Unit

Students in the support unit will use their usual playground. Students in the support unit will arrive at their usual time and leave at their usual time. It is recommended that staff and students in the support unit undertake a RAT every school day. Additional tests will be provided to parents of students in the support unit.

Other COVID-Safe Practices

We will continue with the following COVID-safe practices used last year:

- Students will wear their sports uniform to school if they have sport, PE or a PASS/SLR practical lesson. Students are required to wear their full school uniform at all other times.
- Access to the Library will be in accordance with the following timetable:

Monday Recess	Year 7	Monday Lunch	Year 9
Tuesday Recess	Year 8	Tuesday Lunch	Year 10
Wednesday Recess	Year 9	Wednesday Lunch	Year 11
Thursday Recess	Year 10	Thursday Lunch	Year 7
Friday Recess	Year 11	Friday Lunch	Year 8

Most Year 12 students have a timetabled study period where they may access the Library.



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Parents and Visits

Parents and carers are not allowed on the school site at present unless prior arrangements have been made. Parents of Year 7 students and other new students are able to accompany their child to school on their first day. If a parent does visit the school site, they are required to check-in using our QR code.

Vaccinations

We strongly encourage students and their families to consider vaccination when eligible. The following website has information on booking a vaccination:

https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/booking/

Learning From Home

In the event that Year 7-10 students are required to isolate at home, the NSW Department of Education has developed a learning from home hub. The hub will contain guided learning packages for Year 7 to Year 10. The website is still in development and will be updated over the next few days:

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

In the event that Year 11-12 students are required to isolate at home, further information will be provided at the time in relation to arrangements for learning.

2022 School Information

A copy of our 2022 Student Information Booklet has been uploaded to our website: <u>https://cecilhills-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/parent-information/school-information.html</u>.

This contains information on many aspects of Cecil Hills HS and it is important for all students and parents to read the document before school commences.

A reminder that students return to school on these dates:

- Year 7, Year 11, Year 12: Tuesday, 1 February 2022
- Year 8, Year 9, Year 10: Wednesday, 2 February 2022

Parent Information Session

Our first online *Parent Information Session* for the year will be held at 6:30pm on Monday, 7 February 2022. Further details will be provided during the first week of school.



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Executive Roles

I will be working with the head office of the NSW Department of Education for Term 1 and Term 2, 2022 in the area of school policy. During this time, the following staff members will relieve in these positions:

- Mr Michael Lane Principal
- Ms Adia Sahid Deputy Principal (Year 9 and Year 12)
- Ms Belinda Truong Head Teacher Social Sciences

The school will be in expert hands during this time. I have thoroughly enjoyed leading Cecil Hills HS over the last six and a half years with the support of an amazing executive team, excellent teachers and a wonderful SASS staff. Our fantastic staff will continue our important work and I look forward to returning to Cecil Hills HS at the start of Term 3, 2022.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions.

Mark Sutton

Principal Cecil Hills HS

26 January 2022