

2020
**THE PHS
UPDATE**



**PRAHRAN
HIGH
SCHOOL**

A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS, STAFF, FAMILIES AND THE COMMUNITY

TRANSITIONING BACK TO SCHOOL

1. OUR FIRST DAY BACK TOGETHER
2. HEALTH, SAFETY AND HYGIENE
3. STUDENT WELLBEING
4. LEARNING & TEACHING
5. IMPORTANT DATES

CREATIVITY | CURIOSITY | CHALLENGE | CHARACTER
MAKE AN IMPACT

OUR FIRST DAY BACK TOGETHER

TUESDAY 9 JUNE 2020

Thank you for the positive, enthusiastic way you have engaged with our approach to Learning@Home throughout the past few months. The response of our community to the challenge of these times has been inspiring and confirms again the very bright future of Prahran High School and our students.

And now, we plan the return to learning at school, carefully and compassionately. Together, we have learnt a lot during the Learning@Home experience and now we continue to improve and refine how we work together as a result.

Importantly during this time, the approach to wellbeing, learning and teaching that we have developed together has held up well and affirmed that the purpose, values and mission of Prahran High School are right for us. We are working from very strong foundations and we will continue to build from this strength as we progress.

As we complete our Learning@Home experience and begin the supported return to school, there are some questions that I'm curious to ask people - the most important being 'what have we learnt about learning?'

Schools are (should be!) about learning and we, as a global community of educators, must ask some important questions about learning to ensure our ongoing improvement. Asking is the first step – listening, reflecting and taking action then needs to follow.

It is in that spirit of listening, reflecting and prioritising the wellbeing of our students that we outline the approach to support our transition back to learning on site.

The drivers underpinning our Learning@Home model are stability, opportunity and community connection. These drivers continue to be important as we transition back to school. Deeply embedded in this is wellbeing – for all of us, but of course especially for our students.

Enacting our wellbeing commitment, we will begin our first day together in Mentor Groups, reconnecting throughout the first learning session.

The following material outlines our plans to support the transition back to school. In this Transition Back to School document we cover the following key areas: Health and Safety, Student Wellbeing and Learning and Teaching.

The team and I are excited to welcome students back to their school from 8: 30 am on Tuesday 9 June 2020.

Warm regards,



Nathan Chisholm
Foundation Principal



Health, Safety and Hygiene

The health and safety of every human in our school is our first priority.

This has been a challenging time for us all and it is understandable that you may be feeling some anxiety about students returning to school. We appreciate that and we assure you that we are doing all we can to make the school as safe, clean and healthy as possible.

One of the helpful aspects of being in the Victorian Government system is that the flow of information and instruction comes directly to us from the Victorian Chief Medical Health Officer and the Premier. We know that when the detail of our health and safety requirements are laid out, these details are evidence-based and accurate.

At School, We Will Ensure

1. Students and staff will be encouraged/asked to wash their hands regularly
2. Hand sanitising stations have been installed across the school and are available in learning spaces
3. The school is being professionally cleaned throughout the day with a focus on touch points, doors, high-use areas, tables and bathrooms
4. There is clear signage at all entrance/exit doors explaining the conditions of entry
5. All staff workspaces have been measured, planned and signed with the appropriate number of adults allowed per space
6. At the end of the day, Year 7 students will leave the school by the front doors; Year 8 students will exit the school through the rear doors
7. Equipment sharing will be minimised by teachers and we ask that families ensure that students have all equipment required
8. Drinking fountains should not be used; pouring taps for filling bottles will be available
9. Sanitising wipes are available to all staff and in all learning spaces so equipment can be wiped down safely and regularly
10. Any adult visitors to the school will be kept to the absolute necessary minimum
11. Whole school assemblies will not take place until further advice is received – we may look to continue our Digital Assemblies

We Ask For Your Support

1. Please ensure that your child has everything they need for school. This means a full pencil case, all required workbooks, their student ID card, working laptop and all other stationery items required from the start of the year
2. Pencil cases must be stocked with all essential items that were identified in the booklist, including a range of grey lead pencils for Art and Design
3. Students currently studying Art and Design will be asked to bring their own art smock/old shirt/apron for these classes
4. Teachers will communicate with you regarding other safety/hygiene precautions as we progress, and we ask that you support us by arranging these items/practices
5. Adult – adult contact remains a greater health risk than our students being together. We ask families not to meet in groups at the front of the school at any time
6. We also ask that families limit visits to the school site. While this cannot be completely avoided (and we don't want to) we must be mindful of this, and we expect any necessary visits to be planned first

The most important action families and school communities can take to reduce the risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19), is to ensure that any unwell staff, children, and young people remain at home.

PRAHRAN
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MAKE AN IMPACT



We care for ourselves and each other by

WASHING OUR HANDS OFTEN

Student Wellbeing

What do we want most for our students in the coming weeks?

We have talked about this at school and we are sure it is a family conversation too. We know that we want our kids to transition back to Prahran High School feeling welcome, safe, heard, cared about and excited.

We hope that this transition experience shows them that they are returning to a school filled with adults who are genuinely excited to see them and grateful for the privilege of working with them. This is what matters most.

And, of course, learning at school begins again with our absolute energy and commitment. Our PHS Model of Learning recommences as our practice and we'll get right back into it. First though, we know that for learning and learners to flourish, they need to feel well and be well.

As we have written previously, the transition back to school needs to be treated as exactly that - another transition. It may not be easy for some students. Much has changed for them; new habits are formed, and daily life has been very different. We will prioritise wellbeing, connection and taking time to re-establish helpful routines for learning. We think Mentor Groups can help.

Mentor Teachers, Mentor Groups and Whole School Focus Days

We have been listening to our community throughout this time and it's become clear that the relationship between students and Mentor Teachers has strengthened even further. The time spent together in Mentor Groups has been meaningful and supportive. It will be a feature of our school into the future.

Building on that success we have decided to prioritise this further and build more Mentor Group time into the transition period of the next three weeks. As we strive to support the wellbeing of our students and hold true to our drivers of stability, opportunity and connection, we will structure Mentor Group time twice a week for a full Learning Session, until the end of term.

The purpose and focus of this important time together will be **welcome and transition, connection and reconnection, reflection and listening**. The Student Wellbeing and Engagement Team are leading the planning and will work with Mentor Teachers to ensure we make the most of this time together as we return to school life.

Importantly we also see this as an opportunity to listen to our students and hear about their experience of Learning@Home. We want to explore what worked well, what didn't and what kids have learnt about themselves and about learning.

'Mentor Group begins our first day together. First day, first session – together with Mentor Teachers again!'

Along with the increase in Mentor Group time as we transition back to school, we have also heard from students that Wellbeing Wednesday and Friday Challenges have worked well. We will build on this and plan some similar opportunities for students to have independent choice, opportunities to tap into their passions and further chances to learn amazing things that may not be part of the usual curriculum.

These Challenges will look different at school and together we can now plan new experiences here on site. Any Challenges or other whole-school focus days will only happen within the health and safety parameters set out above.

We are excited to talk to students about this and plan further ideas together. Watch this space.



A Renewed Focus on our

PHS Model of Learning

As we transition back to school, we recommit to our PHS Model of Learning. Our pedagogical and unit/curriculum planning model at school is different to the Learning@Home model. That is both necessary and appropriate as the learning contexts are so different.

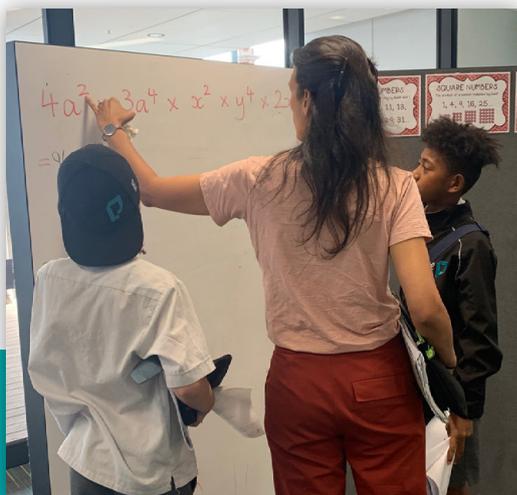
What doesn't change in either model is our commitment to our school values: curiosity, creativity, challenge and character. And, our commitment to our students being supported to understand their capacity and power to 'make an impact.' At home, at school, in the world – these unique aspects of learning at PHS connect us.

We have seen and heard some amazing things throughout the Learning@Home adventure. We have learnt a lot and we look forward to exploring the learning even further by listening to our students and families, as we transition back to school.

What worked well? What didn't? What did you learn about learning? What did you learn about yourself as a learner? What did you learn about your capacity for independence? What did you learn about the power of collaboration? What did you notice about the importance of connection?

It is these sorts of questions that we would like to explore with students and families as we return. We will not let the Learning@Home experience be a blip quickly forgotten – we will reflect, we will listen, and we will learn.

Over the past few weeks as we have talked to colleagues and students, we have had the following key aspects of learning, and the relationship between learners and teachers affirmed for us.



Learning is not linear and is not simply didactic



Life and the world around us provide endless opportunities for learning



Learning is messy; thinking is messy



Learning happens best when students have agency



Learning happens best when we tap into strengths and passions



Learning doesn't just happen at school!



While for some, the above points might seem self-evident, it does still matter to reiterate them here. Why? Because as we strive to learn from this experience and refine our PHS Model of Learning for the future, we are committed to keeping these powerful messages in mind.

We are currently working to co-create our Year 9 2021 curriculum program. As we continue work on that significant project we are striving to capture these key points about learning in the model too. We also strive to build this thinking into daily learning life at school, every day.

As students transition back to school, we have three weeks of classes left before the end of term. During that period, our focus is on wellbeing, reconnecting to our PHS Model of Learning and ensuring a successful completion of Term 2 with all learning tasks submitted on time.

Updates and Reminders

Assessment and Reporting

We will provide a report of student learning growth and achievement to families at the end of this term. Teachers will still assess student learning, mindsets and behaviours – just as we usually do.

Our reports will be comprised of the ongoing feedback from throughout the year, along with a descriptive comment about Learning@Home progress, feedback from final summative tasks and teacher judgements against the Victorian Curriculum Standards.

School Uniform

This is an opportunity to make sure that students have everything they need for school – this includes all items of the PHS school uniform.

It is a Prahran High School expectation that correct school uniform is worn every day at school. As students transition back to school, we will expect our high standards of uniform to begin once again. We ask for your support in ensuring that your child wears their school uniform every day, neatly and correctly – including the shoes, socks and the tie too.

As we transition back to school at the beginning of winter, students will need their warm teal jumper, sports jacket and blazer, to compliment their base uniform choices.

Students should wear their full sports uniform on days they have practical sport as part of Healthy Body, Healthy Mind. The sports uniform comprises: Official sports shorts, sports polo, soft shell sports jacket, sports cap, white sports socks and trainers of student's choice.

NB: Please support the school by ensuring that students don't mix garments between the academic and sports uniforms.



School doesn't end at 3:05

When we think about the experiences our students have at Prahran High School, we don't just think of the in-class time. That's so important and we also know that school is more than that too – it's what we call Life@PHS. We look forward to continuing our Clubs and enrichment opportunities after school and at lunchtimes as we return to school.

- Book Club continues to flourish. The library will be buzzing again with reviews, recommendations and philosophical debates, starting next Wednesday
- Homework Club will be strengthened further as we transition back to school. Students are welcome to continue learning until 4:15 in the library and will be supported by teachers to help them if they need assistance
- Art and Design Club has continued throughout Learning@Home and will return at school on Tuesday afternoons
- Instrumental ensembles will recommence next week
- Workout Wednesdays are kicking off on Wednesday mornings
- Our PHS Basketball Academy will be back up and running soon
- Very soon, French Club will return too

As we transition into our new normal, Life@PHS will continue to be filled with opportunity for students.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

First day of transition back to school

Tuesday 9 June

Final day of Term 2

Friday 26 June

School finishes at 2:30

Staff Professional Learning

Student Free Day

Monday 13 July

First day of Term 3 for students

Tuesday 14 July

Relationships education staff professional learning

Student Free Days

Thursday 6 August – Friday 7 August