

18 January 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to 2022. Even though the year may not have started as we expected we appreciate your support during this time as we work in partnership to maximise the wellbeing of our community.

Following the update from the Department of Education on January 9, 2022 the school year will now commence for students from Prep to Year 10 on the 7th of February, 2022 instead of the 24th of January. Learning from home will commence for years 11 and 12 students on the 31st of January, 2022. Families with students in years 11 and 12 will receive more detailed information regarding learning@home later this week.

From the 24th of January to the 7th of February, Whites Hill State College will be open for vulnerable children and children of essential workers. Information regarding essential workers can be found on the [Queensland Health website](#). Essential workers are those who must continue to attend their workplace.

From the 24th of January to the 7th of February, 2022 the number of staff on the school campus will be minimised to protect staff and to ensure that the maximum number of staff are available to commence the school year on the 7th of February.

If you are an essential worker or your child is vulnerable and needs to attend school from the 24th of January to the 7th of February, please follow this link and complete this [survey by Wednesday the 19th of January](#). Information collected from this survey will assist the school leadership team with planning how many staff are required to supervise students each day.

Staff will meet students in the following locations each day from the 24th of January to the 7th of February:

P - 6 – T-Block under cover area

7 - 12 – ILC

Parents and carers are able to come on site; however, you are required to wear a face mask, sign in using the QLD government check in app, and socially distance.

I respectfully request that only children of essential workers and vulnerable children attend school during the next 2 weeks. If your child needs to attend school, you must ensure your child is well and not displaying any signs of illness. Whilst on campus, students in 7 - 12 will be required to wear a face mask.

For children who are attending school I encourage them to bring their favourite activities e.g. colouring in, board games, reading books. As directed by the Queensland Premier, formal

teaching and learning of the Australian Curriculum will begin on the 7th of February, 2022. In instances where students do not have activities to fill their time on site they will engage with age appropriate activities from the Department of Education [learning@home](#) site.

The Department of Education [learning@home](#) site is available to all parents who wish to engage their children in learning activities during the extended vacation period. Parents wishing to learn more about how to support students experiencing mental health concerns can access the Queensland Government [Support for Students](#) website for resources.

For current information I encourage you to visit the [Queensland Government](#) website.

For parents wishing to purchase uniforms, we ask that you book an appointment via the process outlined in the accompanying letter from the uniform shop. This will ensure that social distancing requirements are adhered to.

The scheduled resources drop off for primary students on Friday the 21st of January has also been cancelled.

Our Whites Hill community has demonstrated resilience and flexibility throughout the pandemic, and I am confident that our community will continue to adapt to the challenges that COVID-19 presents. I sincerely thank you for your support during this time.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A Beattie', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Beattie
College Principal