

4 February 2022

Dear parents and caregivers

Thank you for your ongoing support as we work together to return to school on Monday. We are looking forward to having your children back on-site learning.

As announced by the Premier on Sunday 30 January 2022, the Queensland Government has released the COVID-safe back to school plan.

From Monday 7 February, key features of the plan include:

- The suspension of school camps, excursions, assemblies and large gatherings (please note that school sport will continue as usual).
- Limiting visitors on site with exceptions for parents/caregivers of students experiencing vulnerability.
- Mask wearing for all students and all staff.
- Rapid antigen tests (RATs) available in school for students and staff who develop symptoms while on site. If your child develops symptoms at school, you will be contacted to immediately collect them. A RAT will be provided for home administration.
- Priority access to RATs for students and staff at [Queensland Health testing clinics](#).

You can access the [Back to School plan here](#) and further information and FAQs on the [Department of Education COVID-19 website](#).

I strongly encourage all families to follow the above link and read the FAQs as they are very clear and comprehensive.

To ensure the success of these measures, **if your child is unwell or displaying any COVID-19 symptoms, they must not attend school**. I cannot emphasise this message strongly enough – it is critical to keeping our school community safe.

Your child, if they have COVID-19 symptoms, can visit your local [Queensland health testing clinic](#) and will be given priority access to a free RAT.

Limiting access for visitors

At Whites Hill State College, limitations on parent/caregiver and visitor access are now in place. This is not a ban on all parents/caregivers and visitors, however, we are obliged to limit the number of adults on the school site.

A limited number of visitors will come on to the site, including those delivering learning for students such as vocational education. These people must comply with vaccination requirements.

If you need to visit the school, please contact the Administration Office on (07) 3900 8333 to make an appointment.

First day of School

Due to the restrictions on parents accessing the school grounds, our student leaders will be meeting families and students at the gates to welcome students back to the college. Unfortunately, parents will not be allowed to wait with their students on the school grounds until the start of the school day. We have implemented a clear process for supporting new students to the college and we will ensure that they finally get to experience their great first day at the college.

The only exception to this restriction will be our new Prep families. In acknowledging the significance and importance of the first day of Prep, the guidelines permit two adults to accompany their Prep student and to be on-site. The Prep team having organised a range of celebrations for our Prep families.

Prep students are to go to the Prep precinct when they arrive.

Year 7 students are to enter through the main gate on Burn St where they will meet our student helpers.

New students to the college in any other grade are also to enter through the main gate on Burn St where they will meet our student helpers

Year 1 – 6 students will be collected at the Abbot St gate and directed to a designated undercover area.

Year 8 – 12 students are to go to their timetabled period 1 class on the bell.

Meet the teacher (P – 6)

Our scheduled P – 6 Meet the teacher afternoon scheduled for 3.15pm on Tuesday 8 February will now occur virtually via Microsoft Teams. You will receive an email invitation from your child's classroom teacher.

The Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop remains open, however the by appointment only process will be extended until at least 4 March 2022. This means that no walk-ins will be accepted.

Uniform fitting appointments are booking fast with limited spaces remaining. To schedule an appointment with the Uniform Shop, please follow this link:

<https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code/pqa33>

Operating hours are:

Monday 7 February – 8am - 11am & 1pm - 4pm

Wednesday 9 February – 8am - 11am

Friday 11 February – 8am - 11am

Students (not parents/caregivers) can walk in for small items/pre-orders starting on 14th February between 8 - 8.30am on the mornings the shop is open. If your student requires a fitting, please ensure you schedule an appointment.

Parents are also encouraged where possible to complete Flexischool orders (www.flexischools.com.au). These orders can be collected from the Uniform shop, and Primary student orders can be delivered directly to your child's class.

Excursions and camps

Excursions and camps scheduled between now and Friday 4 March are cancelled or, where possible, have been postponed.

Student timetables (Year 7 – 12)

Secondary students can access their updated 2022 timetable via OneSchool from Sunday morning (6 February 2022). Using the web address oslp.eq.edu.au and their OneSchool username and password, students can sign in and access their timetable via the 'My Reports' drop-down menu on the Home page.



Due to strong enrolment growth over the holiday period there will be an additional Year 9 Elective subject offered to the students on Monday. Year 7 – 9 students will have a blank on Tuesday afternoon and Year 10 – 12 students will have one on Wednesday afternoon. This is their afternoon sport period which they will select in the coming weeks.

New students to the school who may not yet have access to their timetable, will receive one from the main office on Monday.

I encourage you to stay informed of the latest developments relating to COVID-19 by regularly visiting the [Queensland Government website](http://www.qld.gov.au).

We are looking forward to welcoming all students to the start of the school year next week on Monday 7 February.

Kind Regards



Andrew Beattie
College Principal