

Lake Illawarra High School

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'Respect, Responsibility and Safety'

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Dear Parents and Caregivers,

With the current and ever-changing situation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, **the Premier of NSW has encouraged families to keep children at home for the remainder of Term 1.** However, Lake Illawarra High School remains open for students whose parents are engaged in essential services.

We at Lake Illawarra High School have been developing an online delivery platform for lessons as an alternative mode of learning for our students. This online learning will be delivered through the use of Google Classrooms. As the Premier announced on Monday morning, for those parents who are keeping their children at home, the content which is to be delivered via this online platform will also be delivered on site at school. Please note however, for the remainder of Term 1, remote learning will be limited to the provision of learning experiences and resources to students, with minimal direct instruction from teachers.

Google classroom is not something new here at Lake, with many of our teachers already delivering some of their lessons through this platform. The Year Advisor for your child's year group will have a list of the codes for each of the subjects your child studies. We will send this information to you via our Facebook page, website, and as a text message as soon as possible.

It is important that once you receive this text message that your child goes online, accesses the individual class codes and joins their classes. To assist you with this, we have attached a set of step by step instructions on how to use Google Classroom, to this letter.

Daily Organisation at Lake Illawarra - Attendance and Roll Marking

- Rolls will be marked each period by supervising teachers. Texts for absent students will not be sent during this time, but you can monitor attendance on Sentral, through the Parent Portal. If you do not have access to the Parent Portal please contact the school and ask to speak to the Technical Support Officer.

How will Lake Illawarra High School facilitate Learning from Home?

- Timetabled lessons will proceed online and this will be the only mode of lesson delivery for all students, whether working from home or at school.
- All classes have an online learning platform. Students are to use this online platform to complete their learning activities and communicate with their teachers. Teachers are unable to reply individually to emails, as their focus will be teaching via the online learning platform.
- Assessment tasks will NOT be held onsite for the remainder of Term 1. These tasks may proceed in an alternate format and students must ensure they understand the changes. All information about assessment tasks will be communicated by class teacher via the online learning platform.
- Student wellbeing support structures will also be adapted by our Wellbeing Team, this includes our Learning Support structures, albeit with adaptations. This will be communicated as soon as possible.
- Technology support is available. Please contact our Technical Support Officer Mr Owen Williamson by calling the school (42963844) or emailing owen.williamson3@det.nsw.edu.au

- The school will work to accommodate student needs as they arise and are communicated to us. For example, if a student does not have a computer or internet access to continue their learning in an online platform at home, please contact the school.

How can students make the most of Learning from Home?

Students must know their teacher's Google Classroom code and join this class.

Students are to:

- Organise their physical space at home. Make sure the space for learning is neat and tidy.
- Use their timetable to be organised and ready to learn at the timetabled time.
- Take the initiative with their learning – it is up to students to make this work as best as possible.
- Complete tasks with integrity and academic honesty. Students are to do their best work.
- Meet timelines, commitments and due dates. Students are to communicate proactively with their teachers if they cannot meet deadlines or require additional support.

How can parents help?

- Set clear and positive expectations that learning will continue at home.
- Please understand that Learning from Home cannot look the same as the regular learning process.
- Make sure you have access to the school timetable through Sentral and the Parent Portal. This is to ensure your child/ren are ready to learn at the scheduled time.
- Ensure that sleep patterns and morning routines are regular and structured.
- Manage your children's phone/s during lesson times. Phones are a distraction and parents will need to help manage this, by considering steps such as physically placing phones away during timetabled lessons.
- Clarify exactly when assessment tasks are due and assist your child/ren with submission.
- Make changes to your home so that there is a clear and organised space for learning. A space/location for extended learning should be a public/family space, not in a bedroom.
- Please do not directly interact with Google Classroom (or other online platform), as this is a student learning space.

What is the Department of Education doing to assist with Learning from Home?

- The Department's Learning from Home website (<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-from-home>) has many resources. Parents are welcome to access these resources to assist the learning from home. The Department will provide updates on future developments which we will share through email.
- A one-page document titled *Remote Learning Guidelines for Students and Parents* (<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-from-home/advice-to-parents-and-carers>) provides useful tips.

What if my child needs to come to school?

- The Premier of NSW has strongly encouraged families to keep children at home. If this is not possible, our site will be open with staff present to supervise students' online learning.
- Social distancing guidelines will be strictly applied. This means students attending school will NOT experience a regular school day. It is highly likely that outdoor spaces may need to be used for students undertaking online lessons. Students will need to prepare for this - ie, dress warmly on cold days. Playground areas will be limited and students assigned to a particular area.
- Students must bring their own food. **The canteen is closed.**

- All extra-curricular activities have been cancelled until further notice and the site will close at 3.30pm.

FAQs

1. What will happen to the HSC this year?

NESA is meeting today (Tuesday 24 March) to discuss the ongoing learning of senior students, particularly in the context of the HSC.

2. What if my child needs a textbook or other hard-copy resource?

The school site remains open. If you need to access resources from the school, please email your request to the relevant Head Teacher first so we can have the correct resources ready for you to collect from reception in A Block.

3. What if I need to contact a Deputy Principal or Head Teacher?

Please contact the school via the school email (lakeillawa-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au) and state in the subject line the person's name, or role that you wish to contact (eg, ATTN: Deputy Principal Year 7).

4. What if my child finds the work too difficult?

The online platform is the "Google Classroom" - students are encouraged to ask questions and ask for assistance through this platform.

5. What if my child needs additional support / modifications to access learning?

Classroom teachers will build-in adjustments as per usual practice. The Learning and Support teacher will set up a classroom for all learning and support students so that additional assistance is provided.

6. What if my child needs extension work?

The online platform is the "Google classroom" - students are encouraged to write questions and ask for assistance through this platform.

7. What if I need to speak with a Year Adviser?

Year Advisers are accessible via email.

8. How can I access the Teacher Librarians for support with research?

Teacher Librarians can be accessed via email.

9. What if there is "group work" in the subject my child studies?

Teachers will determine the nature of this task and alternatives may be considered. Students should communicate with classroom teachers through their online learning platform.

10. What if my child does a subject with practical work?

Teachers are investigating all options in regard to practical work. We understand that there will be changes and adjustments as we navigate Learning from Home and teachers will provide more advice about practical work as it becomes available.

11. Will every subject/teacher be using the same online platform?

While Google Classroom is our online platform and your child has/will receive information from their teachers about the platform being used and how to access it.

12. Will the canteen be open?

No. The canteen will be closed in line with Department of Education advice to create social distancing.

13. Will school bus services continue to operate?

At present, the bus services will operate as normal.

14. What about extra-curricular activities?

All extra-curricular activities have been cancelled until further notice. There are no exceptions to this

15. What about the Colontarf Academy?

- School is open, we will be present at school but we have been informed that parents and carers where possible to keep their children at home. During this time we will not be running morning or afternoon sessions and won't be offering pick-ups.
- The school is moving towards remote learning where the boys will complete work from home and we are happy to assist with that where possible via phone/internet.
- Hard copies of work can be dropped off by us if there isn't suitable devices at home to complete work online.

Focus for the boys:

- They will be sent work via their Google classroom, we will be able to assist in getting their passwords changed if they can't login.
- They will need to attempt the work and can contact us by phone if they need help. We will also have access to the online classrooms to help out with assessments.
- There will be work to do every day and the boys need to do their best to attempt it. They will be expected to follow their timetabled lessons each day.

In Closing:

- At this time home visits aren't possible but we will update you asap.
- We hope we will be able to pick up the work from the boys in the future.
- The boys can contact us on our mobiles if they need help.
- If the boys come to school we will be there to support. If for any reason we aren't there we will send out a message the day before.
- We aren't sure how long this situation will last but we will be here to support you in any way possible.

We understand that not all families have the devices or means to access our online platform, for this reason we are also preparing work to send as a hard copy for those who require it. To assist us in organising this, can you please complete the attached survey and return it to school.



Mr T. Hicks
Principal
Lake Illawarra High School