



Arthur Phillip High School

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CRICOS Provider code 00588M



TERM 1 2022

Dear parents and carers

Welcome to a new school year, an exciting time as our students start or return to their high school journey. I want to share how we are building upon our experiences of the last 2 years and continuing to safeguard our school community while keeping our school open, where we know the best learning happens.

We will start 2022 with a layered approach to COVID-smart measures that have been developed in partnership with NSW Health to help to minimise transmissions at school. The health and wellbeing of our students and staff remain our priority, and these measures are designed to help to keep our school open and our students learning in the classroom.

These key measures include:

- Rapid antigen test (RAT) kits will be provided to all students to help monitor your child's health and minimise transmission of COVID-19 across our school.
- Wearing of surgical masks indoors is required for all staff and students in Year 7 and above. Please note that fabric masks are no longer provide sufficient protection against transmission and surgical level grade or higher are required.
- Only fully vaccinated visitors essential to delivering and supporting learning or wellbeing can come on a school site.
- Two parents or carers are allowed to accompany their child into school on their first day of Kindergarten or Year 7 or students starting at a new school.
- Students will be kept in their year groups on school grounds, with staggered drop-off and pick-ups, break times, playground and canteen access to minimise the spread of COVID-19 across cohorts.
- **Year 7 and 8 students school times are 8:30am to 3:00pm, Year 9 and 10 from 8:50am to 3:20pm and 11 and 12 from 8:40am to 3:10 pm (the same as in 2021). Please note that school finishes at 2:30pm on Wednesdays for all years and 2:30pm for 11 and 12 on Tuesdays unless they have special timetabled classes or workshops.**
- The 2022 year term starts for APHS students as follows
 - Year 7, 11 and 12 Tuesday 1 February, 2022
 - Year 8, 9 and 10 Wednesday 2 February, 2022
- We will continue to use good hygiene, enhanced cleaning, good air flow and ventilation in learning spaces, as well as physical distancing practices.

While this is not going to be a normal start to the school year, we know that being together in the classroom is the most effective way for students to learn and grow. Your child's relationship with their teacher is important, but as we manage potential disruptions to staffing due to COVID-19, they may get to meet more teachers than usual.



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Rapid antigen testing

We will distribute packs of rapid antigen test (RAT) kits for all students and staff at the start of Term 1.

The use of RATs is an important step to support the health and wellbeing of our students and staff. They 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 can be ready within 15 minutes. Use of RAT kits is highly recommended but not mandatory.

Instructions are included in the kits detailing how to use the tests, check the results and dispose of the tests safely. You can also download the instructions through the [Therapeutic Goods Administration \(TGA\) External link](#) website. The user guides will also contain a contact number for the suppliers if you need additional support.

The School will be distributing 4 Rapid Antigen Tests per student to allow for testing for the first 2 weeks of school. These will be available for collection from the Barrack Lane School entrance on Friday 28 January and Monday 31 January between 8:30am and 4:00pm. Please note there is no car access for collection so we would recommend parents parking somewhere like Westfields Parramatta and walk across to collect the RATS.

- For Week 1 of term students are asked to test themselves the morning of their first day and then two days later. From Week 2 they are asked to test Monday and Wednesday. Further RATS will be distributed after Week 2 as required.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Train

Acting Principal
25 January 2022