



19 June 2020

Dear Members of the Lindisfarne Community,

### **COVID-19 Update 15 - Phase 5 Return to School Plan Introduction of a wider range of School activities**

Following announcements by the NSW Premier and the State and Federal Governments, we have seen further lifting of COVID-19 restrictions for our school and wider community.

This will allow us to progress to Phase 5 of our Return to School plan which is an introduction of a wider range of school activities. During Phase 5 we will continue to work in alignment with State and Federal Government Health advice and NSW Department of Education advice.

As we move into Phase 5 of our Return to School plan I'd like to thank all of our school community including our parents, staff and students for the great resilience, purpose and character as we have stood together to navigate uncharted waters for us all.

As I write today I am cautiously optimistic but also remain wary of the ongoing possibility of a second wave of COVID-19.

Please continue to be vigilant so that we may provide an increasing number of opportunities for our students and keep our community safe.

In particular, please download the COVID Safe App if you feel comfortable to do so to allow rapid tracing of close contacts in the event of a positive COVID-19 test.

A reminder that any staff member or student with cold and flu-like symptoms or respiratory illness is not to attend school until symptoms have resolved. This also extends to any member of the school community.

Importantly, if you have any of these symptoms you must get tested for COVID-19 and self isolate with immediate family members until your test results are known. There is a speciality Fever Clinic at Tweed Hospital. Please advise the School immediately if a positive test for COVID-19 is received.

Please note the following:

#### Activities allowed from Monday, 15 June 2020

- All Department of Community and Justice activities including:
  - external counselling services
  - domestic and family violence services
  - family support services
  - targeted early intervention programs
  - youth engagement support programs
  - Men's Sheds
  - supported playgroups
- School assemblies (limited to 15 minutes and no external visitors)
- Choirs and performing arts (within school setting only at this point, no inter-school activities)
- Incursions/external adult providers to support the delivery of curriculum (e.g. music tutors, sport skills development programs, science demonstrations, drama tutors, Healthy Harold). Must maintain distancing and hygiene requirements.
- Students may attend other schools for essential curriculum-related reasons or placements (e.g. auditions or placement tests)
- Activities using hydrotherapy pools (including external pools in line with the providers' guidelines)
- Day field trips to outdoor locations with no physical distancing requirements (e.g. DoE Environmental Education Centres and sport and recreation facilities, trips to a local river to collect water samples)
- Face to face TAFE attendance in line with TAFE schedule
- Community use activities used by students such as dance classes, and student sport skills development related activities outside of school hours with limited adult attendance (curriculum and extra-curriculum purposes)
- Community use activities on weekends involving adult attendance (complying with relevant guidelines) not essential to the continuity of education
- School photos (although no group staff photos).

#### Activities allowed from the beginning of Term 3, 2020

- All school sport and activities including competitions aligned with current health advice (including those activities run by external organisations)
- Inter-school student events and competitions (choirs, sport, debating, public speaking, performing arts, Selective Sports High School trials, school entrance exams etc)
- Incursions not already permitted involving external adult providers maintaining distancing and hygiene aligned with the health advice of the day (eg school banking talks, sport promotions etc – not directly curriculum related)
- Special Religious Education /SEE volunteers
- P&C meetings – strong preference for on-line where possible
- Parent/teacher meetings – where these need to take place – strong preference for on-line where possible unless involving serious matters that require face to face discussion

- Parent/carer school pick up and drop off – arrangements should continue at the school's discretion taking into consideration adult physical distancing requirements. Parents/carers should not be on school grounds or at school events without the Principal's permission.
- Share Our Space ie community use of facilities
- Official visitors and dignitaries (consistent with current protocols)
- Staff meetings can be held taking into account physical distancing and maximum numbers in a space according to current health guidelines, or use on-line technology
- Professional learning for teachers can recommence with preference for using on-line technology. Professional development at external venues can continue in line with the venue's requirements to abide by current guidelines. Professional development can occur on-site as long as physical distancing is maintained.
- Work experience for students
- Practicum teaching for tertiary education students
- VET work placements can proceed subject to the availability of placement and appropriate risk assessments. For any that can't proceed, please see the [NESA website](#)
- School-based apprenticeships and traineeships can recommence once the relevant workplaces are back in operation
- Community use activities involving general adult attendance (such as community markets) at which the organiser remains responsible for compliance with distancing and hygiene requirements aligned with the health advice of the day.

### Activities under consideration from Term 3

The following events will be reconsidered in Term 3. For now, these events must remain on hold.

- School camps
- Excursions (other than field trips explained above)
- Parent attendance at assemblies and other school events
- Group photos for staff
- Parent volunteers – e.g. parent reading helpers (note: canteen and uniform shop volunteers are permitted)
- Interstate excursions
- School-based activities that involve large gathering of adults are not permitted at this time. These include parent/community gatherings such as parent functions, working bees, fundraisers, school BBQs, large parent information evenings, and large on-site cultural events. These large gatherings and the following activities will continue to be reviewed and assessed based on AHPPC and NSW Health advice and may be permitted at a later date.

### School Fees for Term 3

As you are aware the School Council have provided COVID-19 relief for all families during Term 2 to allow families some space to plan for the future in these uncertain times. The fee relief also provided continuity of education and recognised the severe disruption and impact on family and school life of COVID-19.

The School remains committed to supporting our school families throughout these unprecedented times. Supplementary charges for Term 2 have been waived and will not be charged.

Term 3 School fees will be sent to families in the near future. With the easing of restrictions and the return to face to face learning, the School has taken small steps towards working and learning in our 'new world'.

We realise that for a number of school families this also involves ongoing financial hardship and in some cases extreme financial hardship.

Please contact the school now as a priority if your family will require support in Term 3 as a result of the impact of COVID-19.

You can do this by emailing the Business Manager, Brett Dinsdale, [bdinsdale@lindisfarne.nsw.edu.au](mailto:bdinsdale@lindisfarne.nsw.edu.au) or the Director of Community Engagement, Simon McKinley, [smckinley@lindisfarne.nsw.edu.au](mailto:smckinley@lindisfarne.nsw.edu.au).

Thank you for the time taken to read this lengthy but important update and thank you for your ongoing support.

Kind regards,



Stuart Marquardt  
**Principal**