

22 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers of Galilee School community,

We hope this letter finds you well.

We are just one weekend away from a return to full face-to-face learning and support for all students at Galilee School.

It has been a challenging journey that we have been on in recent times; and while Covid 19 continues to influence and impact our lives and school operations, we are excited to be on the eve of a milestone on that journey.

As a school we are applying the following sequence for return across the school:

- From Monday 25 October all students in all year levels will be returning to face-to-face operations at both Kambah and Holder campuses.

In addition to this:

- Year 11 Hospitality will continue to operate from the Lions Youth Haven 'Westwood' Farm Lodge for the remainder of Term 4 (this is in an effort to reduce the levels of interaction between our school/students and other areas of Communities@Work operations).

Bus runs have recommenced as of Week 3.

A copy of timetables for Week 4 [can be found here](#). They are also available on our website.

Please note: the return to face-to-face learning will mean that our *Remote Learning and Support Model (RLSM)* will cease.

If there are particular challenges associated with a return to face-to-face learning for your student or for you as a family, please talk with us as openly as you are comfortable so that we can understand your circumstances and work with you to explore opportunities for support. Please understand however that there will be limits on what is possible.

If your student was issued with any equipment from the school eg. Laptop and charger, it is essential that these are returned to the school, preferably on the first day your student returns.

For our Year 10 students, conversations with Learning Coaches are underway to clarify expectations for obtaining Year 10 Certificates and plans for 2022 transitions. If you have not yet booked in for a conversation, we will be in touch to make an appointment.

Parent Satisfaction Survey – an invitation to provide feedback

Each year Galilee School seeks structured feedback from parents, students, and staff about a variety of areas of school operations.

This information is very helpful to us in understanding how our school is functioning and to identify areas where we might look to enhance or improve operations.

The link to the survey can be found here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021galileeparentsurvey>

A number of parents have already completed the survey at the parent staff evenings last term and at the Year 10 Learning Coaches sessions this week.

Please only complete one survey per parent (we are very happy for each parent in a 2-parent household to submit a separate survey if you choose to do so).

Vapes and e-cigarettes

Due to changes in Australian and ACT legislation regarding E-Cigarettes and Vapes, Galilee School will need to make changes to our smoking policy:

Changes being applied (at least initially):

1. Definition - no longer including e-cigarettes and vapes as 'cigarettes'
2. Adding a definition that e-cigarettes, vapes and similar devices are not considered 'cigarettes' for our smoking policy
3. Explicitly adding that e-cigarettes, vapes and similar devices are not allowed to be used on school campus or under school supervised activities.

In practice, we would treat vapes like contraband to be handed to staff at the start of the day and returned at the end of day. This transition period may need bag checks to be undertaken and/or targeted questions answered.

These changes are effective immediately.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this policy change, please contact the school.

General advice

The return to face-to-face learning will not be without its challenges. We understand that. We encourage families to talk openly about that transition and to advise the school of any ways in which we can support each young person as they transition back.

Everyone needs to understand that:

- Use of CBR Check in app will be required on arrival for staff, visitors and students for all students in Year 10 and all students over 16
- Physical distancing will be maintained (as far as is practicable) for adults in the workplace. (ACT Health advice is that density limits do not apply to student common areas. Density limits do apply to staff office spaces).
- Face masks will be supplied by the school.

- Face masks must be worn by all students, staff and visitors.
- Face masks must be worn at all times while on school buses.
- All breaks will be taken outside where possible. Masks can be removed once outside on break and disposed of in a bin, maintaining 1.5m. To return inside, a new mask will be issued and must be worn and hand sanitiser applied.
- To maintain facemask hygiene students and staff are not to eat or drink during lessons
- Temperature checks will be required for all persons attending the school daily (on arrival)
- The use of outdoor areas for leaning will be encouraged.
- Fresh air circulation will be utilised where possible (windows/doors to be open)
- A Covid 19 Declaration will be required to be signed for all attending young people on a weekly basis.

[Attached is a one-page](#) summary of our shared expectations as we return to face-to-face learning.

Students that are unable to comply with these requirements will be supported to do so by staff. Students that continue to show unwillingness to comply with these requirements may be asked to return home, to not attend school until such time as they are willing to comply, or other strategies applied.

We all have an obligation to each other to follow these rules so that we can all attend school safely, confidently and we can have the greatest level of confidence possible that our learning will not be disrupted any more than it already has been.

Please visit our school website <https://www.commsatwork.org/services/community/galilee-school/> to access communications, resources and support during this time.

Reviews will continue to be conducted of the operations of Galilee School considering:

- any new medical advice received
- feedback from young people and families
- staffing resources
- ACT Government advice.

When on site at the school everyone is required to comply with ACT COVID-19 Health directions including the wearing of masks for persons aged 12 years and older. Any person who has a physical or mental health illness or condition, or disability, which makes wearing a face mask unsuitable is not required to wear a mask.

Term 4 remains an exciting Term to look forward to.

Regular updates will continue to be provided via text message and via *School Stream*.

Please note that with the return to face-to-face learning in Week 4 this will be the final one of these weekly letters to you. We will return to our normal model of 'as needed' communications supported by School Stream etc.

Please stay connected with us via our Galilee School Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/GalileeSchool/>

Thanks for your ongoing support. We continue to seek to do whatever it takes to keep our community safe, engaged and supported.

Yours sincerely,



Tim McNevin
Principal

Lisa Hivers
Head of Teaching & Learning

Leisl Hignett
Head of Student Support