



27<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Dear Glennaeon Parents and Carers,

You will be very aware of the Premier's announcement this morning of the return to school plan for NSW. At last we have some definite plans around which we can start looking forward to a return to some form of normality.

While there are a number of conditions attached which may yet affect the exact timing, the date planned is Monday October 25<sup>th</sup>, which is week 4 of Term 4. The government has suggested a return for Kindergarten and Class 1, a gradual return over the following two weeks, and with all students back by Monday November 8<sup>th</sup>.

We are waiting on the Public Health Order to be gazetted which will determine exactly the bounds within which we operate, but as an independent school we may have some discretion in the order of return of classes. The return date is still eight weeks away, and in the world of covid, a lot can happen in that time. The situation could be very different in eight weeks, so we will monitor the situation, wait for advice from NSW Health and review our position continually.

We will provide guidance on the return of classes as soon as we are able to make an informed decision. Naturally we want to provide as much certainty as possible.

On the return to school, our total focus will be on providing a safe and secure school environment for all our students, teachers and other staff. The school will be on Level 3 restrictions as we were last year, which will mean minimal mixing of students, no visitors or parents on site, and no excursions. There will also be a new requirement for face masks. We are guided by the Public Health Orders in these matters, and will be providing full details early in term 4.

**Year 12:**

The HSC written exams have been postponed until November 9<sup>th</sup>, with results to be distributed in mid January. This delay is of course disappointing for our students as it pushes back the resolution of their year. UAC and the universities have assured schools that all students will have their university applications processed in time for the start of the 2022 academic year.

The timetable for these exams is yet to be determined. This morning I was in an AIS NSW meeting with other independent school Heads which included a report from the NESA COVID Response Committee, and it is apparent that there are still issues to be resolved before the timetable is published. We urged NESA to publish the new timetable as soon as possible to provide all students and families with as much certainty as possible.

With just three weeks of formal classes left, I wish all Year 12 students a productive time as you complete your 13 years of schooling. As a community of teachers we are here to support you 100%, so just reach out!

We have six weeks of remote learning before we can welcome students back on our campuses. GLO continues to be a very successful platform and I am immensely proud of the quality of lessons and the dedication of our teachers. We totally understand the sacrifices that families are making to have children at home, and appreciate so much the work that you are putting in to support your children.

As I continue to mention in every recent letter, your child's wellbeing is always our paramount concern. If you would like a conversation regarding your child's wellbeing through this period, please speak with your child's Class Teacher, Mentor or Guardian. If needed, they will be able to refer you on to our Student Wellbeing Coordinator Emily Fam.

To use the metaphor of the moment, there is light at the end of the tunnel. It's been a long and difficult tunnel, so the light, when it comes, will hopefully be all the more brilliant and sustaining.

With best wishes, and stay safe,



Andrew Hill  
**Head of School**