



### Advice to Parents and Students: Online Learning Plan as of 16 August 2021

The Premier of NSW has encouraged families to keep children at home for 7 days. ***It is strongly encouraged that students stay home and learn remotely for the next seven days.*** Cowra High School will remain open for students whose parents are engaged in essential services only. All students and staff who are on site must wear masks indoors and outdoors as per the L4 restrictions. The canteen will not be operational during this remote learning period.

### The following arrangements are in place to enable students to learn from home.

It is recommended that whilst parents are supervising their children at home, they follow a routine to ensure that their learning can be a positive experience for both their child and themselves. This includes; going to bed and getting up at normal times, following their timetable as best as they can to complete the work that has been set by teachers, taking time when they would have a practical lesson (eg. Sport) to do some exercise, eating healthy and emailing completed work to their class teacher regularly.

### Students without access to a digital device or wi-fi

Those families without access to a digital device or wi-fi at home will need to contact the school to organise work packs. Students who do not have access to digital technology will be catered for via work packs that can be provided upon request.

### Cowra High School and Learning from Home

- Lessons will proceed online, this being the only mode of lesson delivery for all students, whether working from home or at school
- All classes have an online learning platform, Google Classroom. Students are to use this online platform to complete their learning activities and communicate with their teachers
- Student questions regarding assessments should be asked directly through the Google Classroom platform
- Examination style (in-class tasks) will NOT be held onsite for Term 3 Week 6. 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 the class teacher via the online learning platform
- Illness/Misadventure processes will apply in some limited circumstances. Factors solely related to Learning from Home are unlikely to constitute grounds for misadventure.
- Official school communication will continue as normal via the Sentral communication portal. Year 7 parents will receive access codes in the next 24 hours

## **Making the most of Learning from Home**

Students must know their teacher's Google Classroom code which is located on the Cowra High School website, under the Assessment Tasks Tab. Students must check their Department of Education email regularly for updated information.

Students should:

- Organise their physical space at home. Make sure the space for learning is neat and tidy
- 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 own 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

### **Parent and carer support**

- Set clear and positive expectations that learning will continue at home
- Make sure you have access to the school timetable through Sentral. This is to ensure your child/ren are ready to learn in a structured manner
- 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. Consider physically placing phones away during timetabled lessons to minimise distraction
- Allow 'push' notifications in Sentral so that you can stay in touch with developments communicated by the school
- Clarify exactly when assessment tasks are due and assist your child/ren with submission, all information is available on the school website
- 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 as this is a student learning space

### **Department of Education assistance with Learning from Home**

- The Department's [Learning from Home website](#) has many resources. Parents are welcome to access these resources to assist learning from home. The Department will provide updates on future developments which we will share via email

### **FAQs**

#### **1. What will happen to the HSC this year?**

More information will be provided as it becomes available

#### **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 the front office

**3. What if my child finds the work too difficult?**

The online platform is the “classroom” – students are encouraged to ask questions and ask for assistance through this platform

**4. What if my child needs extension work?**

The online platform is the “classroom” – students are encouraged to ask questions and ask for assistance through this platform

**5. 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

**6. 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

**7. Will school bus services continue to operate?**

At present, the bus service will operate as normal

**8. What about extra-curricular activities?**

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

**Attendance - recording your child’s attendance**

Recently, the national and state governments advised parents that NSW schools will remain open, but **that parents should keep their school aged children at home**. The school is required to maintain class rolls throughout this period and is asking all parents to support the school by making contact to provide an explanation for their child’s absence. The school will cease sending SMS notifications of student absences and mark all students as ‘flexible leave’ unless communication is received from parents and carers. We ask that parents/carers inform the school of student illness as required.

Examples that parents/carers may use to explain their child’s absence from school include the following:

My child/children are unwell with common cold or flu, an illness that is not related to a respiratory illness or has a respiratory illness that has been diagnosed as COVID-19. Please reply to the SMS with Sick (**S**). Otherwise, Flexible (**F**) - will be the acceptable response for children whose parents are following premier’s advice

If your child is returning to school and was diagnosed with COVID-19, they will require a medical certificate and a letter from their doctor stating that they are fit enough to return. If and when required, please continue to contact the school and explain your child’s absences on a regular basis, including if their circumstances change. Please also ensure all of your contact details are up to date with the school’s clerical office. I thank you for your ongoing support at this time.

Regards



Helene Hamilton  
Principal