



Principals Message

James Cook Boys
Technology High School

800 Princes Highway
Kogarah
NSW 2217

Ph: 02 9587 1770
Fax: 02 9553 8242

End of Term 3 2021

Email: jamescookb-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Website: jamescookb-h.schools.nsw.gov.au

Principal - Mark Marciniak

COVID update and return to school plan

This term has been a very challenging time for students, their families and school staff. Whilst everyone's focus has been on staying safe and looking after each other, parents and carers have had to continue to work where possible and students have continued with their learning from home.

I acknowledge the individual complexities that has challenged us all in different ways and I greatly appreciate your support, feedback, and perseverance despite these challenges to ensure your son/s continue to participate in their learning.

On Friday 27th August 2021 the Premier announced the return to school roadmap for students in NSW. Students will return to face-to-face learning either through a 'staged return' or 'full return', depending on NSW Health conditions in their area.

Students will return to face-to-face learning with NSW Health-approved COVID-safe settings on school sites in the following order:

From 25th October 2021 – Kindergarten, Year 1 and 12

From 1st November 2021 – Years 2, 6 and 11

From 8th November 2021 – Years 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

The return to school roadmap is subject to change depending on new information expected through the Public Health Order and additional advice from NSW Health.

Term 3 will end on Friday 17th September and resume on Tuesday 5th October. All students from 7 to 12 will continue learning from home until their expected return to face to face learning dates. Further information to parents/carers will be provided in the lead up to student cohort returns.

The HSC exams for 2021 has been rescheduled to start from Tuesday 9th November and will conclude on Friday 3rd December. HSC results will be released from 6am on the 24th January 2022 and ATARs will be released on the 20th January 2022.

Year 12 2021 have endured an extremely disruptive, unpredictable, and highly stressful two years in their endeavour to complete the HSC. However, despite the enormous challenges they faced they have displayed a calm, focused, adaptive resilience to the constant obstacles in their path. The individual resilience that these young men have demonstrated over the last two years facing COVID challenges in addition to their own complexities has been extraordinary. I hope that there is no further disruption in the lead up to the final exams and I wish them all the best.

Student and family wellbeing

Acknowledging it has been a difficult time for many, our Wellbeing Team, consisting of our Wellbeing Coordinator, School Psychologists, Youth Outreach Worker, Year Advisors and School Chaplain have been making regular contact with students and their families.

Mr Hedges our School Chaplain has connected with local charities to support families in need with food hampers. This has been a great initiative that many families have embraced. If you require any support or assistance that may include; mental health support, food packages, referrals to external support agencies, financial support or guidance please contact the school on 9587 1770 or via email at jamescookb-h.schools@det.nsw.edu.au and ask to speak with the Principal or your son's Year Advisor.

In addition to our current Wellbeing Team JCBTHS has been fortunate to secure a Wellbeing and Health In-reach Nurse Coordinator (WHIN). I would like to welcome Samantha Hillier our WHIN who will be working across a group of schools that include Moorefield Girls High School, Kogarah High School, Rockdale Public School and JCBTHS. Samantha is employed by NSW Health and is here to help support and assist our students and their families with any health concerns that may include organising assessments and referrals to medical and social services and follow up treatment plans.

Samantha comes with a wealth of knowledge and expertise and previously worked as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in the role of a Registered Nurse. She has nearly forty years of experience working with children, adolescents, and families. Samantha is a fantastic addition to our wellbeing Team to ensure we continue to provide a high quality and holistic service to our school community.

Learning from home.

In recent parent/carer communication sent out by the school we sought your feedback on how we could best support your son/s learning from home. Thank you to everyone who completed the survey or contacted the school and spoke to our staff. In response to your feedback we have initiated more virtual classrooms directly with teachers and their classmates. We have also been running year group wellbeing meetings on Tuesdays and Fridays with the Year Advisor and our Youth Outreach Worker. Mr Mallios and I have also been visiting virtual classrooms across the school and it has been great to reengage with the students and hear their responses and the excitement in their voices.

Next term as we return back to learning from home for the first five to six weeks, we will be endeavouring to hold more virtual classes and opportunities for the students to connect with their teachers, receive feedback and interact with their friends. I request your support after the holidays to encourage your son/s to reengage with their learning from Tuesday 5th October. I acknowledge that it has been a long time since the boys have physically been at school, however it is important that they try their best to pace themselves and complete as much classwork as possible.

If you or your son are having trouble with technology or managing the workload, please contact the school and speak to your son's Year Advisor so we can assist and or adjust the learning to suit your son.

NAPLAN 2021 results

The school has received individual NAPLAN results for Year 7 and 9 students last week and are in the process of having them mailed to households.

Despite there being a nationwide slight decline in student NAPLAN results in Years 7 and 9 JCBTHS went against the trend.

We recorded strong growth in Year 9 Reading obtaining 25 percent of students in the top two bands compared to the state percentage of 21.5% and Statistical Similar School Groups (SSSG) at 6.5%.

In Year 9 Numeracy we remained consistent with our 2019 results (in 2020 NAPLAN was cancelled) obtaining a strong 25 percent in the top two bands in comparison with the state at 22.9% and SSSG at 14.2%.

Our Year 7 cohort performed slightly better in the top two bands obtaining 29.5 percent for Reading and 33.7 percent for Numeracy, both areas above state and SSSG comparisons.

We are very pleased with our student's performance in NAPLAN 2021 and we will be further analysing the data with our internal data measures over the coming weeks.

Year 10 subject selection interviews

Mr Mallios our Deputy Principal along with Mr Pikis the Year 10 Advisor and Ms Blatchford the Careers Advisor have been busy over the last two weeks holding virtual meetings with Year 10 students and their parents. This important process allows each student the opportunity to discuss their post school destination options and formulate a collaborative senior school pathway plan.

JCBTHS has successfully facilitated this transition meeting over the last six years. The only difference being over the last two years we have had to adapt to a virtual platform. I want to thank Mr Mallios and the team as well as all the parents who attended these virtual interviews.

Stage 5 Elective Choices.

Preparation is underway to develop our online videos for Stage 5 (Year 9 and 10) elective subjects. Due to current COVID restrictions we are unable to meet with parents and students to provide the subject selection information. Parents and students in Year 9 and 10 will receive this information early Term 4.

School Captains 2022

Normally at this time of the year we would be preparing for the Year 12 Graduation and electing our 2022 School Captains and leadership team and having them co-present at the Graduation Ceremony. Unfortunately, we are unable to follow our normal tradition. This year our 2022 School Captain candidates have recorded their speeches for the teachers and their peers to view and vote. We have a very strong tradition in developing the leadership capacity within our young men and we are looking forward to electing and announcing our 2022 School Captains in the coming days. I am sure the successful applicants will uphold the values of our school and do us proud.

I would also like to acknowledge our 2021 School Captains Calvin Jacob and Patrick Spencer. Although their leadership has been hampered by COVID, these two young men have been outstanding leaders and possess high academic potential in their HSC. It has been an absolute pleasure working with them both and I wish them all the best in their upcoming HSC. I am confident that we will be very proud of their results.

New staff

JCBTHS has been very fortunate to secure the fulltime employment of Ms Hannah King. Ms King joined the HSIE Faculty at the beginning of this term and has been working online to support student learning for her classes. We look forward to welcoming Ms King face to face when we resume later in Term 4.

I wish you and your son/s a restful and safe two-week holiday. Hopefully we will be able to enjoy some of the easing restrictions in the near future.

If you need to contact myself or a member of the teaching staff, please email the school at the address previously provided and it will be forwarded to the intended recipient.

Please continue to access our school website or Facebook to keep up to date with the latest information and announcements.

Thank you once again for your support during a very difficult term.