



1 October 2021

Dear RJ Students, Parents and Caregivers

### **New Update (No.21/13) – Term 4 Commencement**

As we commence the final term of the year, we wish to welcome Mr Luke Sale, our new Head of Primary (Marsden Park Campus), to our community. Mr Sale will commence his part time transition to the Marsden Park Campus prior to commencing in a full-time capacity in January 2022.

We are also looking forward to having all our students across both campuses start to return to school from October 18. There is nothing quite like the sounds of a school playground full of student laughter and activity. It has certainly been missed by us all over the past three months and we cannot wait to have our students back with us on campus.

### **Staggered Return to School from October 18 (Week 3)**

Details about the staggered return to school will be provided closer to the time of return. However, it is important to note the following points in advance of the return to school.

- All students are welcome to return to school whether they have had a COVID vaccination or not. COVID vaccination of students is not a requirement for school attendance, although NSW Health encourages Secondary students (12-18 years) to be vaccinated.
- All Secondary students will be required to wear a face mask at all times whilst at school, both inside and outside. Please ensure your child has an adequate supply of masks.
- NSW Health have strongly recommended that Primary students wear a mask.
- The Marsden Park Campus will have a different return to school outline to the Oakhurst Campus due to its smaller size of student cohorts and multi-age class structures.
- All RJ Bus Services will commence from October 18 to assist with the return to school and passengers will be encouraged to wear a face mask during transit. Therefore, children of authorised workers from the Marsden Park Campus who had been supervised at Oakhurst, will now return to their campus from Week 3.
- Marsden Park Pre-K students will return with Kindergarten students in Week 3.
- As per the current advice from NSW Health and the NSW Government, no parent is allowed onto the School site. Drop off and Pick up arrangements will be advised by each Campus' Head of Primary closer to the time.

### **Distance Learning Program**

The School's Distance Learning Program (DLP) will continue as the main platform for lesson delivery for Week 1 and 2 of Term 4. As each cohort returns to face-to-face learning on campus, the respective DLP delivery will cease. For example, when Kindergarten and Year 1 students return on October 18, their DLP delivery will cease and be replaced by the face-to-face learning occurring on campus. No other mode of learning will be available to students in these year levels who do not attend school. RJ's proposed staggered return of student cohorts will be provided in due course.

While our Wireless Wellbeing Wednesdays (WWW) were a great success last term in the full DLP mode, due to next week's four day week and the earlier return to school date set by the government, we will not be conducting a WWW day during Week 1 to Week 4 this term. Families are still encouraged to monitor levels of student wellbeing while students engage with their DLP.

As we are still under stay at home orders, only children of authorised workers should be attending the school campuses during Week 1 to Week 4 for DLP supervision. These families should continue to pre-register their children using the link provided each week for students (not in a returning cohort) to assist us in planning appropriate supervision during the DLP period.

### **School Operational Matters**

The Secondary Turnaround will be closed to staff and parent access until November 1 due to the construction of the Senior Learning Centre that commenced at the end of last term. Please use the Church carpark as the drop off and pick up point for Week 1 to Week 4.

If a child is sick at any time during Term 4, they will be required to provide the School with a medical certificate from their GP or a negative COVID Test result before returning to campus. With the heightened nature of the Delta variant of COVID-19 still in community transmission, the School requires this evidence to inform our risk assessment processes.

### **Year 12 Students**

All measures are being taken to ensure the provision of a safe environment for our Year 12 students to undertake their HSC examinations here at RJ. Arrangements are being finalised over the next two weeks in relation to the protocols our students will need to follow for this to happen. Mrs Scrimshaw will advise our Year 12 students in due course as to study and revision arrangements with teachers that are being scheduled and the guidelines for sitting the HSC examinations at the start of November.

We are also currently planning dates for a Year 12 Reflection Day, Graduation Event and Year 12 Formal based on the lifting of COVID restrictions which will take place towards the end of the term. Dates will be released shortly.

*Psalm 111: 10*

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.*

Let's continue to trust the Lord for the safety and health of our community as we venture into the final term of the year and commence the Summer season.

Kind regards

Alan Dawson | **Principal**