

Newsletter

TERM 4 :: Week 3 :: 21st October 2021



From our Principal

It was wonderful to see students back on site at the beginning of Term 4. They have missed their peers and the routines that attending school brings and the staff have missed our students. Thank you to our parents and community who have supported learning from home, it is no easy feat asking you to undertake your work and/or home duties and support and answer questions that arise from schoolwork.

This term, we continue to be guided by the NSW Department of Education and the Level 3 COVID - safe schools operations, which as you are aware has implications as to how our school can function. Please see the information for Level 3 in this edition of our newsletter. Thank you to our staff who adapted seamlessly to the move to learning from home, which was an overnight change for Gilgandra High School. As Term 4 progresses, we will continue on Level 3, until advised of further changes.

Year 12 have adjusted admirably to the changes made to their HSC year. Their HSC examinations were pushed back, not once, but twice, and we continue to provide ongoing support as they advance toward November the 9th when their examinations begin. We expect that a Year 12 Formal will be able to take place after December 3rd, to celebrate the successes of 13 years of schooling.

The 2021 Year 11 cohort has begun their HSC courses and we wish them well as they progress through their final 12 months of formal schooling.

As Term 4 progresses, we look forward to greeting the 2022 Year 7 cohort to our school through the transition program in readiness for high school.

We have high expectations of our students and wish to convey that this extends to attendance and uniform. As summer approaches, please make sure that you contact the administration office for any of your school uniform needs.

Principal

Mrs Erica Burge (RLG)

Deputy Principal

Ms Sheryn West (RLG)

HEAD TEACHERS

English/HSIE:

Mrs Fiona Lambell

Mathematics

Mrs Michelle Keogh (RLG)

Science

Miss Ilana Austen (RLG)

TAS

Mr Russell Woollams

Support:

Mrs Di Irvin

Wellbeing

Mrs Meredith Schier

YEAR ADVISORS

Year 7

Mrs Nadine Wilkin

Year 8

Miss Nicola Murphy

Year 9

Mr Andrew McCutcheon

Year 10

Ms Madde Jewell

Year 11

Miss Breanna Patton

Year 12

Mrs Stacey O'Neill

P & C President

Mrs Chantel Chandler

AECG President

Ms Deidrie Naden

ARCO

Mrs Meredith Schier



As part of our ongoing professional learning, our staff have been working through an analysis of the NAPLAN, Checking Tests and Best Start Data, as part of progressing their professional knowledge of data analysis and applying their findings to the students in their classes, in order to best support teaching and learning. This aligns directly with Strategic Direction 1 of the Strategic Improvement Plan initiative, 'Develop staff capacity to use data to inform future practice'.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families/level-3-schools>

*Mrs Erica Burge
Principal (Rlg)*



Regional Youth Taskforce 2022 Recruitment

Do you know someone aged 12-24 years old living in regional NSW who'd be interested in joining the NSW Regional Youth Taskforce?

The NSW Government is offering regional young people the opportunity to share their opinion on local issues, to represent their peers, and to help make decisions to drive change in their own communities. Applications are open now and close midnight Sunday 21 November 2021.

👉 www.nsw.gov.au/TaskforceRecruitment

The Homework Centre

Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, we are unable to operate the Homework Centre at present. However, we are excited about it returning as soon as we are allowed. Look out on Facebook for when we can operate it again.

Uniform Shop

Sloppy Joes	-	\$40
Sport Shirts	-	\$25
School Shirts	-	\$25
Track Pants	-	\$25
Shorts	-	\$25
School Jackets	-	\$60
Sports Socks	-	\$30
Calculators	-	\$30

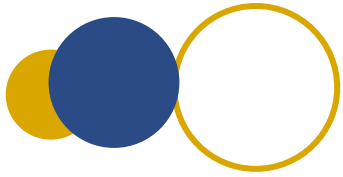
OUR UNIFORM MATTERS

Wellbeing News

Staff Training in mental health and assistance
1st November

Year 9 Maintaining Positive Mental Health Day presented by Batyr
22nd November





Around our School



L to R: Luke Nalder, Kooper Fox, Clayton Fanning, Abby Tate, Ella McAnnaly-Elwin, Sarah Schier and Maddison Hourigan.

School Captain Nominees

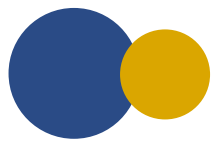
Congratulations to all of our school captain nominees who delivered their captancy speeches to the school via Zoom on Monday 18th October.

All candidates spoke well as to why they would be the best candidate to hold these important positions.

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...





From our Deputy

Welcome back students, teachers, and parents to face to face learning. It is wonderful to have students and staff back onsite.

Gilgandra High School is still operating under Level 3 COVID-safe school operations. This means that:

- Students are expected to be at school unless they have even the mildest of COVID-19 symptoms
- Students are required to wear a mask indoors
- Students are recommended to wear a mask outdoors
- Students are to only mingle with their year group
- No assemblies or excursions are permitted
- Non-essential visitors are not permitted on school site

This term, we are working within the Level 3 COVID-safe school operations to continue learning opportunities for our students. Year 10 students will be participating in the Love Bites Respectful Relationships Program. It is a program for young people aged between 15 and 17 that aims to provide young people with a safe environment to examine, discuss and explore respectful relationships.

Captains' Speeches were held on Monday 18th October via Zoom. Students in all year groups, and staff across the school, linked in to watch the speeches from the nominees: Abby Tate, Madison Hourigan, Sarah Schier, Ella McAnally-Ewin, Clayton Fanning, Kooper Fox and Luke Nalder. Congratulations to the nominees who presented themselves with dignity. Good luck to all.

Students in Year 7-10 will be completing the second round of vocabulary words as part of the whole school focus on improving reading and numeracy. Across the school students will be explicitly taught how to define, look at characteristics, identify synonyms, identify antonyms, and use the following 6 focus words: **adequate, incentive, represent, incentive, collaborate and potential**. Try starting up a conversation with your child about these words and how they are used in everyday language and what they can mean in different contexts.

Continue to stay safe.

Ms Sheryn West
Deputy Principal (RLG)

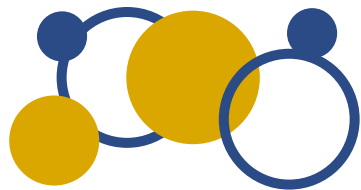
Sentral

Gilgandra High School now has a dedicated Sentral Messaging phone number. This phone number is the number you will receive messages from the school if your child is absent, or late. The phone number is **0458 116 116**.

The dedicated number gives parents the security and confidence knowing who is communicating with them. It also ensures the school maintains a consistent identity for all SMS communications.

Please ensure you save this number to your mobile so that you will know it is Gilgandra High School communicating with you.





Mathematics Classroom

It has been great to have our students back in classrooms completing work. A big thankyou to all the students who completed the work provided by their mathematics teachers while we were learning from home. Well done on learning the new skills that were presented. Later this term, assessments will occur that will test the work completed over the semester, including the remote learning activities.

Currently in classrooms we have:

Year 7 working through perimeter, area and volume.

Year 8 finishing the topic of circles and moving onto graphing straight lines.

Year 9 are working through coordinate geometry and graphing lines.

Year 10 are almost finished the topic of Statistics.

Year 11 are starting their Higher School Certificate work across courses.

Year 12 are completing revision in preparation for their Higher School Certificate Examinations.

It was great to see Year 10 completing an activity that had them questioning the marketing of a product. They looked at the ways advertisers make claims about their products and that these claims are not usually able to be tested. They were made aware of the sizes of the fonts used, with words advertisers don't want you to notice written very small.

The class also looked at misleading graphs and the way statistics are used in the media. The statistics are displayed in a misleading way. For example, the graph does not start at zero, or the scale is not uniform and skips numbers. Often this makes the rises and falls in the graphs look very dramatic, however, drawn correctly, these changes are very small. The graphs are displayed in this manner to back up the media's arguments or claims. It's persuasive but not correct, with most readers not noticing the way the way statistics are used to mislead.

Mrs M Keogh

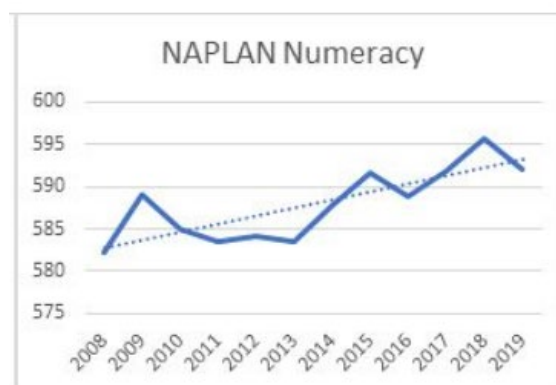
Mathematics Head Teacher (Rlg)



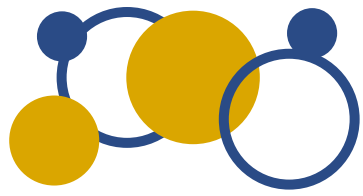
At first glance this ad claims to help remove dullness, have a 1st time cleaning action, and that they are the best cleaning tablet on the market.

They have no proof that it will clean it first time nor remove dullness or they are the best product.

B. Walsh



Graph does not start at zero.

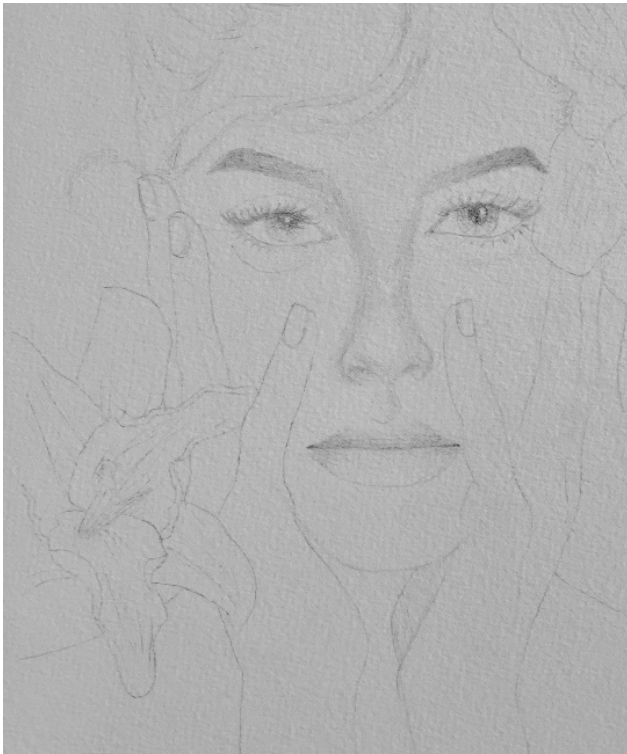


Art

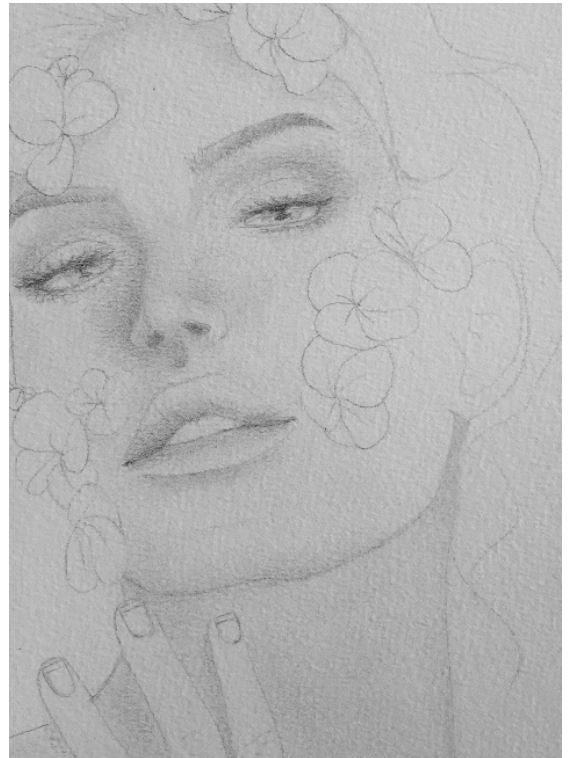
As Year 7 were unable to continue their pottery work at home during the end of last term, students completed a variety of tasks, including flower pressing, research into various art movements, recreating famous artworks, and were even able to play games together over Zoom. This term, students are excited to begin creating their own 'Alien Plants', working in collaborative pairs as inspired by the artist groups 'Chiaoza' and 'Zim & Zou'.

Year 12 have completed their major projects, handing in their Body of Work at the end of last term. They have created artworks that display their areas of interest and preferred materials, each demonstrating skill in their final pieces. Congratulations Braydon, Darren, Jason and Jessie, and good luck in your final exam!

Miss M Bunter
Art Teacher



"Sin-ister Beauty"
by Jessie Walsh



"Dreamtime Snake"
by Jason Newman





"Floral Tribute"
by Braydon Holland



Untitled
by Darren Doherty





English

The teachers of English and Modern History would like to wish the outgoing Year 12s the very best of luck with their final external HSC examinations. Remember to carefully read each question and use your knowledge as evidence when responding to questions.

Year 11 students have now stepped into their HSC year and are excited/terrified for the journey ahead of them. Mrs Lambell, Miss Jewell, Mrs Wilkin, Miss Patton, and Ms Collier are well prepared to guide these adventurous souls over the next 12 months.

The junior English classes are immersing themselves in film techniques and novel studies, whilst Ms Collier and Mr Godber have launched their charges into the second session of their History studies. Stage 5 Drama and Commerce are readying themselves for their Yearly Examinations and the LOTE classes continue to explore the language and culture of Wiradjuri and Japanese.

Ms Collier has organised some excellent 'incursions' for Year 10 History and the senior Modern History class, utilising the outstanding expertise and resources of the Sydney Jewish Museum. We look forward to hearing about this initiative later in the term.

Mrs F Lambell
Head Teacher English/HSIE

Careers

Gilgandra High School leavers have the opportunity to apply for scholarships to assist with the costs of their tertiary education whether that be TAFE, apprenticeships or traineeships or university. It is very worthwhile, as we have been informed in the past that not all funds are distributed due to a lack of applicants.

Each individual is encouraged to seek opportunities from the institutions or industry they are pursuing and apply for all possible support. Gilgandra High School will work with the students on their applications.

Gilgandra is an immensely generous community with a culture of support. Much funding is raised through the hard work and commitment of our charitable organisations and the altruism of our local community. Gilgandra Lions Club Scholarship and Gilgandra Services Club Michael Noonan Scholarships close on November 15, Gilgandra Country Education Foundation grants, which are completed online, close on December 30. Please see the Careers Adviser for details. These monies are raised by locals, from locals, for locals. They make a financial investment into our youth as they set their path to pursue and achieve their chosen endeavours.

Significant to our school leavers development, these applications are followed by interviews. Applicants participate in an interview for each and hone presentation and communication techniques. This is an invaluable experience as they prepare to leave school and enter their next phase.

Along with these, the Orana Education and Training Cooperative (OEC) is providing a \$10,000 Scholarship to encourage regional students to follow their education dreams.

Madeline Foran
Careers Advisor (Rlg)





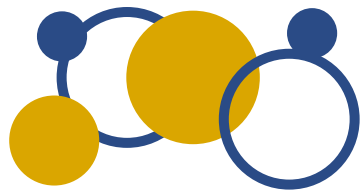
T.A.S.

Students from Technology Mandatory, Industrial Technology, Textiles, Food Technology and Agriculture classes should be congratulated for working through the high level of theory content they completed during their remote learning time last term. A large amount of work was completed but it was also a big relief for these students to be able to return to practical lessons this term. Getting back to the workshops, kitchens, computer rooms and the ag plot was welcomed by all. Year 7 and 8 Technology classes are on track to finish this term uninterrupted, as they complete their last rotation of options for the year. Year 10 major projects have been interrupted but will be marked with COVID disruptions taken into account. There are still some promising projects being built.

We look forward to sharing photos of these in the final newsletter of the year.

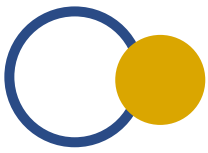
*Russell Woollams
Head Teacher TAS*

*Photos (above): Year 11 students are practising precision cuts in their Hospitality class.
Top: Georgia Koch & Tamara Harland. Bottom: Alicia Byrne & Eleanor Pilcher.*



Year 9 & 10 Food Technology students have been decorating cakes this term.





Our New Laser Cutter

Our school has been fortunate to have funding available this year to purchase a new laser cutter, which is being housed in the STEM Maker Space in the Library. The unit uses a 50W laser on a bed size of 610x450mm. Its main purpose is to engrave and cut a range of materials including, paper, card, acrylic, MDF, plywood, timber, leather or fabric. Mr Woollams completed his training in the holidays and over the coming weeks staff from a range of faculties will have the opportunity to be trained as well. Some of our students this term will get first use of this exciting technology, starting with the junior Technology classes. These students will finish off their chopping boards with professionally engraved laser designs, and use laser cut parts for pinball machines.

Photos: Senior students will have the opportunity to use the laser cutter to create a range of projects, especially as part of their Design and Technology course.

Coming Up

9th November
HSC Written Exams

22nd November
Year 9 Workshop in
maintaining positive mental health

January 2022
HSC results released



Science

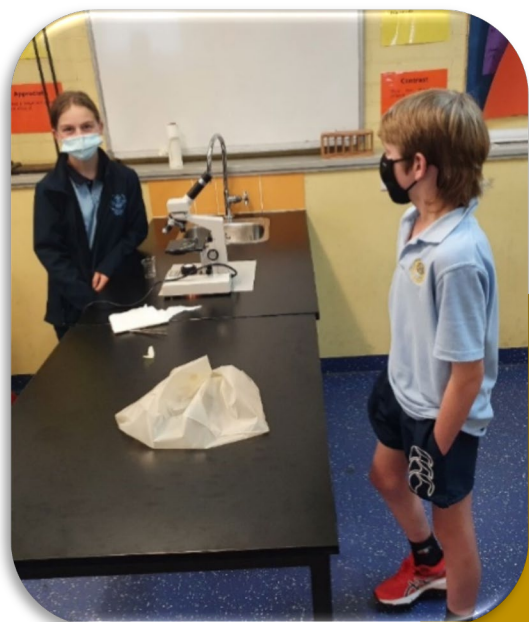
Miss Austen, Miss Hoy and Miss Jones would like to extend a very big WELCOME BACK to all students this term. We have missed teaching our students face to face in the classroom and it has been lovely reuniting with you all these first few weeks of the term.

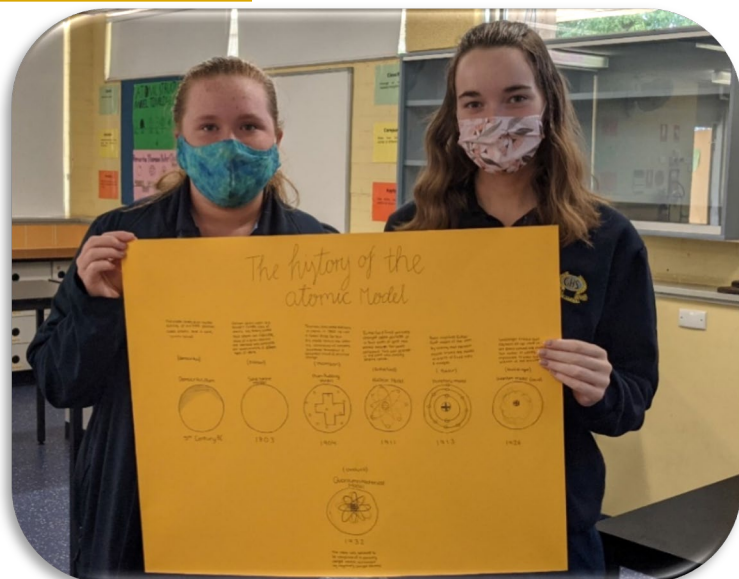
In the Science faculty we have wasted no time making up for the missed opportunities during remote learning, jumping as quickly as we could into the opportunities to undertake practicals in the classroom. We have developed Level 3 COVID safe protocols for staff and students to ensure everyone's safety at all times, and this has allowed students the opportunity to participate in practicals they weren't able to participate in towards the end of last term.

Year 7 has started the term looking at cells. They have been able to complete practicals which have enabled them to link the learning they undertook about the cell during remote learning, to the practical components. Here's what two students had to say about the learning activity:

"On Monday 11th October, we learned about the different parts of a microscope. We then got a piece of onion, peeled a bit of skin off it, then looked at it underneath a microscope. I saw a nucleus in the middle of the cells"- Ella Mudford

"Last Monday we investigated onion cells in Science. We started off by learning how to use a microscope; then we looked underneath the microscope to see what it looked like. We could see a lot of lines as well as a nucleus and cell wall" -Sarah Chandler

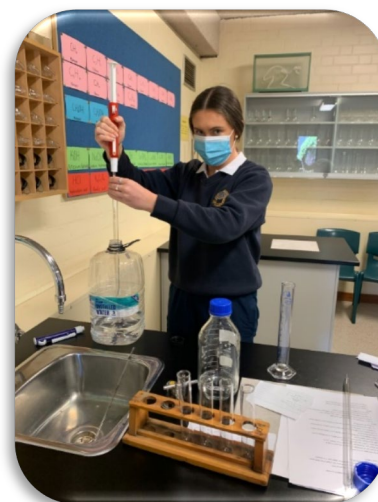




Year 8 have begun learning about the rock cycle, the different types of rocks and how they form. Students have enjoyed engaging in practical tasks looking at different samples of rocks and fossils and thoroughly enjoying Miss Austen's Rock Cycle Rap to the tune of Life is a Highway.

Students in Year 9 are learning all about atoms and have just completed a research task and poster on the history of the atomic model. They will continue to delve further into the depths of chemistry as the semester continues, and will gain a greater understanding of the periodic table.

Year 10 are delving into the depths of the universe and exploring the Big Bang Theory this term. They will discuss concepts such as black holes, gravitational pull and the life and death of stars. This is a great topic as it incorporates many aspects of Science, such as physics and chemistry, which students find interesting and intriguing.



Year 11 Chemistry have wasted no time in beginning their HSC studies. They are currently examining the difference between static and dynamic equilibrium and have delved back into calculations, making up solutions and conducting experiments. This term will challenge Year 11 and see them develop new Working Scientifically skills that will continue to support them as they begin their final journey towards the end of their high school years.

Throughout the term there will be a number of small assessments for the junior years and of course their yearly exams. While there will be some preparation and revision in class for these, parents are encouraged to discuss the upcoming assessments with their children and support them to revise at home, as this will see them attain their best possible results.

The Science faculty is very excited to be back and is looking forward to a fun filled Term 4 with you all.

*Miss Austen
Head Teacher Science (Rlg)*

Support

This week's decriptive task- 'Write about what you see in the school quad area':

"The Canteen, which faces the quad, has the most delicious food and wonderful drinks. I shop there once a week. My favourites are plain pies and juice bombs." By Jazz

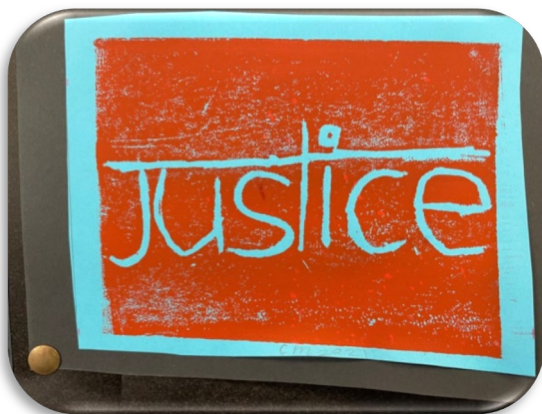
"The paintings,in the grassed area, are so well done and very detailed. I like the way that they add colour to the quad and I like the way that it was done by students." By Chelsea

The Support team would like to kindly thank Ms Lesley Sheldon for her work in D6 and welcome back Mrs Kristy Vergamalis from maternity leave.

Mrs Di Irvin
Support Head Teacher

Right photos: Emmaline making a face mask, and her finished product.

Below: Print making using polystyrene, roller and paints



School Travel for 2022



2022 school travel applications are now open

Students who need a School Opal card or travel pass for 2022 can [apply](#) now. A new application will need to be submitted if they are applying for a school travel pass for the first time, or if they are requesting an additional travel entitlement as a result of a new shared parental responsibility situation (e.g. joint custody).

Students who change address, school, campus location, or who have repeated a year or received an expiry notification from Transport for NSW for their school travel entitlement should [renew or update](#) their details before **the end of term 4**. This will ensure that schools can endorse applications and current entitlements are updated and remain valid. School Opal card holders will have the changes applied to their existing card.

If a student's distance eligibility has changed based on their grade the system will automatically update their entitlement if they meet the new criteria. If they do not meet the new [eligibility criteria](#), they will receive an expiry notification via email.

Students who have an entitlement approved under a medical condition that is due to expire will receive a notification advising them to re-apply.

[Term Bus Pass](#) holders will receive a notification to re-apply.

Students in the Opal network applying for an Opal card (including a Term Bus Pass) for the first time will receive their Student Opal card at their nominated postal address. Cards will be mailed out from January 2022.

Students living in rural and regional (R&R) areas should receive their travel pass at the start of the new school year from their nominated transport operator. It may come via the school or be sent directly to them at home. **Note:** some R&R operators do not issue travel passes. Students/parents should confirm with their nominated operator if they do not receive a pass.

School Student Transport Scheme site change

On 1 October 2021 the School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) information and application portal was moved to **transportnsw.info**. This will assist families to find all their travel information in the one place.

Travel from Term 1 2022

We ask that parents plan ahead and make sure their child knows which service/s to use and has a valid ticket to travel; either a School Opal card or Child/Youth Opal card (within Greater Sydney) or a School Travel Pass (outside Greater Sydney), from the start of the school year.

Applications for the School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) open at the start of Term 4 2021 for travel in 2022, so parents/students can [apply](#) or [update](#) details early and be ready for the start of the new school year.

Most students using the Opal network will not need a new Opal card and can continue travelling on their existing card each year.

The start of the year is a difficult period for local bus operators, and students travelling without a valid ticket make service planning and operations increasingly difficult.

We recognise that for some families last minute changes to school enrolments mean they may not have a School Opal card or Travel Pass for the start of term. In the Opal network, we strongly encourage these families to have their children travel on a Child/Youth Opal card until they receive their valid School Opal card. If outside Greater Sydney, parents should contact their [local bus operator](#) to discuss their travel needs.

Bus operators are flexible and understanding, particularly at the start of the school year, and will ensure students can travel safely to and from school. But to best support our operators we encourage all students to have a valid ticket, as early as possible, from the start of the school year.

Please also remember that students using Opal cards must tap on and tap off in line with the [Student code of conduct](#) and [Opal terms of use](#).



Further information can be found at transportnsw.info/travel-info/using-public-transport/school-travel

Enquiries can be submitted at transportnsw.info/contact-us/feedback/passes-concessions-feedback

COVID-safe school operations

	Overview	Guidance on mask wearing
Level 1 School operating in a COVID-safe way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students and staff to not attend school if they have symptoms; negative COVID-19 test required prior to returning to school Parents, carers and visitors are allowed on site QR code check-in and check-out required for all staff and visitors COVID-19 Safety Plans required in line with NSW Health advice (such as large gatherings or events) Activities such as singing, chanting, choirs, bands and school performances allowed in line with broader Health settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inter-school sport in line with community sport guidelines Community use in line with broader Health settings SRE/SEE (externally provided religion and ethics classes) operational Community Language Schools operational P&C on site Additional cleaning measures in place <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff and students are supported to wear a mask or face covering should they choose to do so.
Level 2 COVID-safe; restrictions on activities and non-essential visitors	As per Level 1, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-essential visitors not allowed on site (including parents and carers) Staff identified as vulnerable supported to work from home Activities such as singing, chanting, choirs, bands and school performances allowed in outdoor settings only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemblies must have COVID-safe practices in place and no parents or carers are allowed Excursions within local government area (LGA) only, and strongly recommended to be outdoors and within walking distance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While in indoor settings in schools, masks or face coverings are recommended for all staff, and all students in Year 7 and above.
Level 3 COVID-safe; face-to-face learning allowed on site; further restrictions on activities and non-essential visitors	As per Level 2, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mask wearing requirements Introduction of staggered breaks and reduced mingling of student cohorts wherever possible Activities such as singing, chanting, choirs, bands and school performances not permitted School canteens can operate with conditions Exams as per Health approved COVID-safe HSC guide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff interactions limited with physical distancing No assemblies No excursions No community use (except early childhood services and OOSH services) Uniform shops are online. No SRE/SEE (externally provided religion and ethics classes) No Community Language School on site <p>While on school sites masks or face coverings are required (unless eating or exercising) for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff indoors and outdoors indoors for students in Year 7 and above. <p>Masks are recommended for primary students for both indoors and outdoors, and also for students in Year 7 and above when outdoors.</p>
Level 3 plus COVID-safe; face-to-face learning allowed for certain cohorts if vaccination rates achieved; restrictions on activities and non-essential visitors	As per Level 3, with following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Return to school will be based on community settings such as adults fully vaccinated and levels of community transmission Only vaccinated staff on site Students in cohorts (including split classes) starting with staggered return of priority cohorts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimised interactions and contact within student cohorts Staggered access to school facilities and shared spaces such as libraries and canteens Drop-offs, pick-ups and break times staggered by cohort <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While on school sites, both indoors and outdoors, masks or face coverings are mandatory for all staff, and all students in Year 7 and above unless they are eating or exercising. Masks are strongly recommended for all students.
Level 4 Learning from home encouraged; schools are open for families who need it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families are encouraged to keep their children at home, with no student to be turned away Schools activate plans to support continuity of education for all students learning from home Study bubbles for students sitting their HSC exams Where students and staff are at school, Level 3 guidelines apply, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No community use (except early childhood services) No canteens 	<p>Schools in identified local government areas of concern are operating under Level 4 settings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirements for authorised workers in an LGA of concern remain in place. Staff must not leave their LGA for work unless they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> had at least 1 dose of a COVID-19 vaccine or provide evidence of a medical exemption have registered their travel with Service NSW. Staff who live outside but work in an LGA of concern will need to register their travel. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While on school sites, both indoors and outdoors, masks or face coverings are mandatory for all staff, and all students in Year 7 and above unless they are eating or exercising. Masks are strongly recommended for all students.