



Please contact Mr. Cockington (Junior School) or Mr. Laffin (Senior School) for further information.

## 1 ALTERATIONS

Sections 7, 10 and 16 have been altered since Version 3.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

Throughout periods of 2020, all independent schools, including Blue Mountains Grammar School, were required to operate under the same COVID-19 guidelines as NSW Department of Education and Training schools. Towards the end of 2020, independent schools were permitted to return to their own risk assessment practices, informed by advice from various government sources and the Association of Independent Schools. NSW Health, the Association of Independent Schools and the NSW Department of Education and Training regularly release updated COVID-19 advice, the spirit of which we will endeavour to follow in the interest of community safety. This information sheet outlines the approach Blue Mountains Grammar School will take to managing the ongoing risks associated with COVID-19, as restrictions ease in light of the decline of community transmission of the disease.

## 3 HYPERLINKED MENU

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## 4 PERSONAL HYGIENE

- 4.1 All persons are expected to undertake appropriate hand hygiene at all times
- 4.2 All persons are requested to cough or sneeze into their elbow.
- 4.3 Wearing of masks will not be required, but is permitted, on campus. In deciding whether or not to wear a mask, all persons will be encouraged to consider the needs of those with hearing or auditory processing difficulties and the other impacts the wearing of a mask may have on their capacity to engage with and participate in our community. Staff considering wearing a mask should speak with the Business Manager or their Head of School.

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## 5 COVID SYMPTOMS

- 5.1 All persons are to stay home if they have even the mildest cold or flu symptoms and be tested for COVID-19. Prior to returning to School (or upon their return) staff and students are required to provide a copy of their negative COVID-19 Test to one of our Receptionists. Staff documentation will be placed on file.
- 5.2 Students or staff presenting with ANY cold or flu symptoms will be immediately sent to sickbay and sent home. Where students or staff provide a copy of a negative COVID-19 Test but continue to present with symptoms (e.g. where an individual experiences hay fever), they may be required to wear a mask.

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## 6 SOCIAL DISTANCING

- 6.1 All persons are expected to avoid close personal contact (such as hugging and shaking hands).
- 6.2 Social distancing is not required between students or staff.
- 6.3 Adults are asked to maintain 1.5m social distancing at all public events wherever instructed and where practicable.

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## **7 ATTENDANCE ON CAMPUS**

- 7.1 Parents are welcome to attend Campus for student performances and community events as well as to drop Junior School aged students off to classes and pick them up.
- 7.2 Parents will be required to sign in at Reception upon arrival for reasons other than those detailed in 7.1 above.
- 7.3 Should parents identify students as being at a higher than average risk of COVID-19 transmission and choose to have them continue to learn at home, they are asked to provide the School with a medical certificate stating that this is the case and specifying the time period to which this applies. Students will then be listed as Learning Online rather than Absent in the School's attendance records.
- 7.4 Parents are asked to book appointments in the Uniform Shop in order to avoid over-crowding at peak times, and to park in the Chapel Car Park rather than at the Roundabout in order to manage general safety in the area. If the Chapel Car Park is full, please consider the Sports Centre Car Park or the Pitt Park parking available outside the School gates.
- 7.5 Casual teachers, contractors, practicum students, external coaches and tutors, and parent volunteers will be welcomed on site and at School events. Please note the requirement to adhere to the School's COVID-19 Safety Plan as a condition of participation.

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## **8 CLASSROOM HYGIENE**

- 8.1 Physical distancing of students is not required under Government guidelines.
- 8.2 At the beginning of each lesson, students will sanitise their hands. We will continue to supply hand sanitiser in all learning spaces, but students are welcome to bring their own should they prefer to do so.
- 8.3 All frequently touched surfaces such as desks, equipment and the tops of chairs will be disinfected BOTH at the beginning and at the conclusion of all classes in the Senior School, and at the beginning and conclusion of each day in the Junior School.
- 8.4 The School Cleaning Team will continue to provide a higher than usual level of sanitisation of all surfaces each evening after the school day concludes.

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## **9 VACCINATIONS**

- 9.1 While we await the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine, it is important that we continue our normal vaccination program protecting children and young people from other diseases.
- 9.2 Information in relation to the NSW Health Vaccination Program will be provided to families in due course.

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## **10 TRANSPORT**

- 10.1 Senior School students taking public transport (whether trains or public buses) are no longer required to wear masks. All students are asked to be conscious of social distancing and personal hygiene while using public transport and should sanitise their hands before and after using public transport.

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## **11 SEPARATION OF COHORTS**

- 11.1 Separation of cohorts is no longer deemed necessary. We will revert to combined events both for the leadership opportunities they afford our older students and the opportunity for strong peer-relationships for younger students.

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## **12 EATING AND DRINKING**

- 12.1 School bubblers may be used however, students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles with their name clearly marked and may re-fill them at various locations around the School.
- 12.2 Students are not to share food and drinks.
- 12.3 All Senior School students will have access to the Canteen. In order to avoid over-crowding, however, only those students intending to purchase food and drinks at the Canteen are permitted to wait in Canteen lines. All other students are asked to remain out of this area. Where they forget, staff will ask them to move away.

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### **13 ONLINE TEACHING AND LEARNING**

Whilst teachers are focused on face-to-face learning they are not able to provide a face to face online experience for students who are isolated at home.

- 13.1 Senior School students learning from home as a result of COVID-19 isolation will continue to be able to access all appropriate lessons through Zoom and will find lesson information on the Portal and (an increasing proportion of) Google Classrooms.
- 13.2 The provision of online learning for Junior School students in isolation, and what that constitutes, will be determined by the age and capability of the students concerned. Teachers will consult with the Head of Junior School as necessary.

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### **14 EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENTS**

- 14.1 All aspects of the School's academic calendar will operate as normal in 2021, including Senior School examinations and assessments.
- 14.2 Should individual examinations or assessment tasks be modified to adjust to COVID-safe guidelines, students and parents will be notified well in advance and a no-disadvantage test applied.

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### **15 LARGE GATHERINGS**

- 15.1 Large gatherings of students may resume as normal as normal.
- 15.2 Community singing and appropriately distanced musical performances are now permitted indoors.
- 15.3 The size of adult gatherings will be limited only by our ability to provide sufficient social distancing.

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### **16 SPORT**

Sport is crucial to both the physical and social development of young people, as well as being a key part of our life as a school community. Subject to updated guidelines inter-school and even inter-regional sport will continue in 2021.

- 16.1 Our three School sports carnivals will be permitted in 2021, subject to COVID-19 Safety Plans.
- 16.2 Our Head of Sport, Mrs. Harris will communicate our approach to Senior School inter-school sport.
- 16.3 Individual Masters in Charge (MICs) will meet with their teams and provide further information as necessary.
- 16.4 Please note that parents are permitted to attend Saturday Sports, however are still expected to maintain strict social distancing.

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### **17 MUSIC AND DRAMA**

Music plays an important role in the lives of many of our students. In order to manage the safety of our community, the following guidelines will apply.

- 17.1 Singing is now permitted where the following conditions are met:
  - 17.1.1 Solo singing is permitted with 5m social distance to any accompanists and audience.
  - 17.1.2 Group performance is permitted for any number of people where performers maintain 1.5m social distance from any audience.
  - 17.1.3 Audience members may now sing outdoors, or in large, well-ventilated indoor spaces.
- 17.2 All woodwind instruments are permitted with 1.5m social distance from each other and any audience.
- 17.3 All brass instruments such as trumpets, trombones and French horns, and all other string and percussion instruments, may continue to be played with appropriate cleaning and hygiene measures.
- 17.4 Peripatetic Teachers will be permitted to continue lessons for BMGS students as per the statements above. Students from outside the BMGS community will now be permitted to attend the Campus.
- 17.5 Students may now participate freely in group performances in Drama.
- 17.6 Where performances of either Music or Drama are to take place, the total number of attendees will be limited only by the ability to provide 1.5m social distance for adults.

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## **1 OTHER EXTRA/CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

All our normal Extra/Co-Curricular Activities will continue to operate.

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## **2 EXCURSIONS AND INCURSIONS**

- 19.1 The School will undertake excursions with appropriate COVID-Safety planning. We will continue to monitor health advice. All external excursion venues will be asked to provide a venue-specific COVID-19 Safety Plan at the time of booking.
- 19.2 Wilderness Education day trips and outdoor learning will continue as normal.
- 19.3 Incursions will continue as normal. Educators visiting the School will be required to complete the Schools COVID-Safe Declaration Form and adhere to the School's COVID-19 Safety Plan as a condition of their attendance on Campus.
- 19.4 Where appropriate, parent helpers will be invited to attend excursions as volunteers.
- 19.5 International excursions will remain on hold until further notice.

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## **3 CAMPS**

For many adults who were fortunate enough to attend schools such as Blue Mountains Grammar, camps are the source of some of our most cherished and long-lasting memories of our time at school. Camps will continue as planned in 2021. Closer to the relevant date, camp staff will distribute specific information to students and parents and will conduct Camp Briefings to ensure students understand COVID-Safety measures and are otherwise ready to head out on their adventures.

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## **4 STAFF MEETINGS AND PROFESSIONAL LEARNING**

- 21.1 In 2021, Staff Meetings will be conducted face to face with appropriate social distancing.
- 21.2 At Blue Mountains Grammar staff are encouraged to engage in on ongoing professional learning throughout their careers. Staff attending external professional development will be asked to engage in online/Zoomed options where possible, and to comply carefully with the requirements of the COVID-19 Safety Plans of external provider's in all circumstances.

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