



Welcome back to Term 2, 2020.

Thank you to everyone for supporting our students' learning.

Although the school year has been very disrupted for our staff, students and families, I am extremely proud of how everyone is managing the obstacles placed in front of us. The ability to quickly adapt to an intense level of change and to continue to move forward has been evident across our school community, and this is a credit to everyone involved.

Gundagai High staff have worked tirelessly in producing units of learning for the students, which have been delivered both online and in printed workbooks. Teachers have undertaken training to upskill their online teaching and learning techniques to remain up to date with the Department of Education's ever-changing guidelines. I am so appreciative of the professionalism and dedication of our teachers who have worked so hard to ensure our students remain supported and engaged throughout this process.

The School Admin and Support staff have done an incredible job of supporting the teachers, students and community whilst still carrying out their normal duties. They have all played an important role in the preparation and organisation of student work to enable learning from home, and I thank them for their efforts.

With the completed units of learning from Term 1 being returned for marking, I have been impressed to see our students' commitment to their learning continue from home, despite the challenges. The high number of students engaging with online learning and the vast amount of completed work that has come back into the school demonstrates that our students value their education.

I would also like to thank our families and learning facilitators at home who have been incredibly supportive of the situation. As part of the team who made many phone calls to families prior to the term break it was wonderful hear the various approaches to home learning. Thank you for your efforts in not only keeping everyone safe, but assisting us in keeping the continuity of learning for our students.

Student attendance from Monday 11 May (Week 3)

The Executive staff had an online meeting on Monday 27 April to discuss how Gundagai High will manage the return of students into the school setting. As many of you are aware, the NSW State government has made it clear that students will progressively move through different phases of returning to school. From **Monday 11 May** we move into phase 1 which has students attending school for at least 1 day per week. (please see last page for the guidelines in phasing students back to school)

Gundagai High School Year 12 students will return fulltime. Gundagai High School has decided that ALL Year 12 students will be required to attend school as per normal from Monday 11 May. This means Year 12 classes will run as close to normal as possible. Year 12 students are expected to attend every timetabled lesson as per normal schooling. Year 12 flexible attendance can still be utilised eg: If you don't have a lesson period 1 you can arrive in time for period 2.

Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 students will return as per the following:

Monday – Year 9

Tuesday – Year 8

Wednesday – Year 11

Thursday – Year 7

Friday – Year 10

Please note: If families need to send siblings on the same day for work or safety reasons then please be aware that children attending school on days not indicated for that child, will be separately supervised for learning and will be working through the current units of learning provided by their teachers.

Hygiene for everyone

Upon returning to the school setting everyone will need to maintain vigilance around personal hygiene and physical distancing. The school has been working behind the scenes to obtain adequate supplies of soap, and hand sanitiser. We are also awaiting an important shipment from government supplies to be able to cater for the increased hygiene standards required. I would encourage all our school community to carry personal supplies of hand sanitiser (if possible) and continue to obey the government protocols around social distancing. Class sizes will be reduced whilst we are in phase 1 of student returns.

P&C Canteen

The school canteen will be open again from the beginning of week 3. However, **the canteen will only be open in the morning and for first break between 11.10-11.50am**. It will not be open for the second break until further notice. Students are encouraged to bring healthy and nutritious items from home for the second break.

School improvements

Front entrance

It was with great excitement that we completed the 'front of school' project that made the front page of the Gundagai Independent in the holidays.

I would like to thank the P&C for their contribution towards this project. Their donation of \$16000 enabled a shelter to be built. This structure will be well used by the students at the end of the school day while waiting for buses, year meeting gatherings and as a meeting point for excursions.

We were also lucky enough to have Local School Community funds of \$5500 to contribute to the overall project. This helped us landscape the area and build a safe pedestrian access for all to utilise.

A Big Thank you to Mr Oden Britt, Mr John Enever and his son Alex, and also Kayne Worldon for their efforts in planting over 250 native plants from Tumut Landcare.

Before



After



Painting

The school has also been undergoing a facelift with painters working hard for several weeks. This has improved classroom environments, playground areas and the overall look of the school buildings.

Grass Quad Area

The grass quad area in the middle of the school tends to become a dry dustbowl in the summer and a slippery muddy area in the winter. Therefore, we have undertaken an upgrade to improve the general feel of the area, make it more functional for the high amount of foot traffic it receives and provide more sheltered undercover areas for our students. The project is well underway with a new footpath, underground sprinkler system and new turf already laid. This phase will be completed by the end of this week. A large shelter is scheduled to be installed by the end of week 6.



Stay safe and well

Simon Bridgeman

Principal

Gundagai High School

At all times

- Schools are safe places for students, teachers and staff.
- All students engage with a single unit of work.
- Keep up-to-date with your school's communications to make sure you receive important messages about timetable changes.
- Any identified cases of COVID-19 will continue to be managed in line with health advice, including temporary school closures where necessary.

Learning from home

Practical resources and guides to support students are available at the department's [Learning from home hub](https://www.nsw.gov.au/learning-from-home).

PHASE 0

Schools are open for families who need it.

- Families are encouraged to keep their children at home wherever possible, with no student to be turned away.
- Students who attend school are supervised only, not in their regular classes.
- No excursions or inter-school activities.
- Continued enhanced cleaning and hygiene supply arrangements.

You can now

- Send your child/children to school one day a week.
- You are encouraged to keep you child at home for the rest of the week wherever possible.
- Check with your school to see which day of the week your child/children should attend.
- Use the school canteen and uniform shop where appropriate hygiene measures are in place.

You must continue to

- Keep your child/children at home if possible.
- Support your child/children to continue learning at home.
- Communicate with your school via email and phone wherever possible.
- Follow the health advice and keep your child/children at home if they are unwell.

PHASE 1

Students at school at least one day per week.

- Schools have discretion for establishing which group attends on which day, with a preference to group siblings/families together.
- Families who need to send their child to school every day may continue to do so and no child will be turned away.
- Classes are split across different spaces and break times can be staggered.
- No excursions or inter-school activities.
- Continued enhanced cleaning and hygiene supply arrangements.

You can now

- Send your child/children to school two days a week.
- You are encouraged to keep you child at home for the rest of the week wherever possible.
- Check with your school to see which two days of the week your child/children should attend.
- Use the school canteen and uniform shop where appropriate hygiene measures are in place.

You must continue to

- Follow your school's advice regarding changes to drop off and pick up, including staying in your car when dropping off and picking up your child/children if safe to do so.
- Maintain social distancing by avoiding gathering outside of school gates.
- Make sure your child/children have access to lunch and snacks, noting some canteens may not be operating at this stage.
- Support your child/children to continue learning at home on remote learning days.
- Communicate with your school via email and phone wherever possible.
- Follow the health advice and keep your child/children at home if they are unwell.

PHASE 2

Students at school at least two days per week.

- Schools have discretion for establishing which group attends on which days, with a preference to group siblings/families together.
- Families who need to send their child to school every day may continue to do so and no child will be turned away.
- Classes are split across different spaces and break times can be staggered.
- No excursions or inter-school activities.
- Continued enhanced cleaning and hygiene supply arrangements.

You can now

- Send your child/children to school every day.
- Access community services (run on school sites, where they are not restricted by Public Health Orders).
- Use the school canteen and uniform shop where appropriate hygiene measures are in place.
- Walk your child/children into and out of school while maintaining social distancing.

You must continue to

- Follow your school's advice regarding changes to drop off and pick up, including staying in your car when dropping off and picking up your child/children if safe to do so.
- Maintain social distancing by avoiding gathering outside of school gates.
- Make sure your child/children have access to lunch and snacks, noting some canteens may not be operating at this stage.
- Support your child/children to continue to learn at home if they are required to learn remotely.
- Communicate with your school via email and phone wherever possible.
- Follow the health advice and keep your child/children at home if they are unwell.

PHASE 3

Students at school five days per week, with social distancing measures.

- Students with increased health risks may continue to learn at home to suit their individual needs.
- Students remain in the same classroom for the day, break times can be staggered to reduce mixing between class groups.
- No excursions or inter-school activities.
- Continued enhanced cleaning and hygiene supply arrangements.

You can now

- Send your child/children to school every day.
- Participate in school excursions and inter-school activities.
- Use playground equipment at schools.
- Drop your child/children off at school as you would normally do.
- Participate in school based activities such as volunteering in classes and assemblies.
- Use services that usually operate at your school like canteens and other community run activities.

PHASE 4

Students at school five days per week, with full school activities.

- Normal school breaks and entry/exit processes will resume.
- Infection control procedures will continue on a school by school basis.
- Communication to staff, students and families regarding NSW Health advice will continue.
- Continued communication to the Early Childhood Education sector regarding NSW Health Advice.

A managed return to school

Guidelines for families