

28 January 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

I wish to add my welcome to that of Head of Schools, Mike Potter, in his letter to you on Tuesday 18 January. I am thrilled to be able to write to you to introduce myself and am excited to be joining the Tyndale Murray Bridge school community as Principal. While I am very much still settling in, I have felt warmly welcomed by the school community. I also want to acknowledge the legacy that Bruce Hicks is leaving after his many years of service to the school. My prayer is that I will be able to continue his legacy and further build upon it in the years to come.

The current COVID conditions we find ourselves in not only make the beginning of the 2022 school year more complicated, but also hinder the opportunities we have to build community and connection. I am confident that, in time, we will be able to return to offering more opportunities for families to come together at school, but for now, we are seeking to limit gatherings for the sake of minimising the spread of COVID. We are particularly mindful of our new Reception students and Cath Grant, our Pastoral Care Leader – Junior Years, will write to those families separately with more information about celebrating this exciting (and sometimes daunting) transition into school life.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with some important information about the start of the school year, as well as updating you on staffing changes. As Mike Potter alluded to in his letter, we have some well-loved staff who are taking 12 months of leave, but we are also excited to welcome many new staff to our school community.

If you have any further questions regarding the start of the school year, please do not hesitate to email Rachel Honeychurch - Principal's PA, who will be able to direct your question to the right person for assistance - rachelhoneychurch@tyndale.sa.edu.au.

Staffing Changes

I am delighted to announce that we have appointed two new leaders to our community:

- Alex Giggins in the role of Pastoral Care Leader – Senior Years. Alex will be replacing Tim Howard, who is taking 12 months leave.
- Roger Moreton in the newly created role of Pastoral Care Leader – Middle Years. Roger is joining us from Mid North Christian College, where he spent many years in a senior leadership role.

INTENTIONALLY
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We welcome the following new teaching staff:

- Roger Moreton, who will be teaching Tech Studies and Agriculture.
- Ross Stewart, who will be teaching elective subjects in the Middle Years.
- Ben Bowden, who will be teaching Middle and Senior Science, replacing Aaron Morris and also Outdoor Education, replacing Tim Howard.
- Carrie Pearsons (Relief teacher in 2021), who will be teaching Music and Drama, replacing Megan Donald.
- Pamela Coulson, teaching Reception – Year 8 Auslan, replacing German for LOTE.
- Amber Howard, who will be teaching Reception whilst Emma Smart is on maternity leave.

We welcome the following new Education Support Officers (ESOs):

- Tamzin Bormann
- Shawna Denman
- Christopher Gutteridge
- Stefanie Oosthuizen

We also welcome the following new and existing staff to new administration roles:

- Lilian Barry, who will be managing our Main Reception three days per week.
- Rachel Honeychurch, who has been appointed to the role of Principal's PA, replacing Sharon Clark who is taking 12 months leave.
- Candace Turner, who will be providing administration support to Jenny Jansen and our Learning Support team.

School Start

It is our intention to maximise learning experiences for all students, irrespective of whether they are learning at home or at school in Week 1 and beyond. In preparation for your child/ren's learning, please note the following:

1. **Students in ELC, Reception, Year 1, Year 7, Year 8, Year 11 and Year 12 will return to school and experience face to face learning as normal from Monday 7 February.** Our Year 11 and Year 12 students have combined classes for many subjects and so it makes sense for them to return at the same time as Year 12. Only parents/carers of Reception and ELC students will be allowed on site and will be required to adhere to all COVID precautions including mask wearing, social distancing, QR code checking in and remaining outdoors.
2. **Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6, Year 9 and Year 10 will remain at home during Monday 7 – Friday 11 February (Week 1) to receive home-based learning support.**
3. Vulnerable students and children of essential/critical workers will return to school and be supervised by staff by attending the classroom shown on their timetable, whilst accessing the learning from home programme with the rest of their cohort online.

4. Vulnerable students and children of essential/critical workers must have their planned attendance booked by using the form accessed via this link: <https://bit.ly/323XsuM>
5. We will issue laptops to new students and those who do not already have a school issued laptop for all students in Year 6 to Year 12. See below for information regarding laptop collection.
6. Learning will be conducted via Dojo and workbooks for Junior School students. See below for information regarding workbook collection. Canvas (our online learning management system) will continue to be used for all students in Middle and Senior School.
7. For ICT technical support for students and parents (eg. login issues), please phone this number 1300 Tyndale (1300 896 325).
8. Students must bring water bottles to school, so that they do not need to use the drink fountains with their mouths.
9. Classrooms will be well ventilated by leaving doors and windows open, unless extreme temperatures require the use of air conditioners which draw in fresh air.
10. **All parents/caregivers will be required to wear masks when on the school property. We request that parents do not leave their vehicle unless specifically required. Students from Year 7 to Year 12 will be required to wear masks whilst indoors. Students from Year 3 to Year 6 are strongly encouraged to wear masks whilst indoors.**
11. **All students and staff must stay home if unwell, even if symptoms are mild. A PCR test should be undertaken for any COVID symptoms.**
12. Counselling support will still be provided, and student appointments can be made via the Wellbeing tab on the School's website. All new students will receive an appointment invitation from one of our counsellors once all students have returned on site. Additionally, parents may request an appointment for their child using the link below: <https://sforce.co/32CqNg7>

Uniform Shop Opening Hours

Please note uniform stock in small sizes is very limited; we are awaiting delivery of new order

Our school uniform shop will continue to operate through our main reception area. However, bookings are now essential to manage the number of people on site at once, so please do not arrive at the shop without using this booking system first. Please use this link: <https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code/88xvu>.

When making your booking please select as follows:

- Teacher: Tania Gutteridge
- Subject: Uniform Shop

The dates and times that the uniform shop will be available next week are:

- Wednesday 2 February – 8:00am to 4:00pm by appointment only.
- Thursday 3 February – 8:00am to 4:00pm by appointment only.

Note: 15-minute allocations per child have been provided over the two days.

Things to consider:

1. All current families who know their uniform needs and sizes will NOT require an appointment for a fitting, e.g., hat or next size up shirt. Please pre-order by emailing your requested uniform items to MurrayBridge@tyndale.sa.edu.au visit this link to access the price list - <https://bit.ly/3r778hX>
2. Your order will be put together with payment taken over the phone and ready for collection on Friday 4 February from the Front Office. No appointment on the above days is required.
3. If you are a family with more than three children requiring uniform or a new family to the school requiring a full fit out, a minimum of two time slots will be necessary.
4. If your children are learning at home for the first week, you might like to consider postponing a uniform fit out.
5. The Uniform Shop will reopen from Monday 7 February at the times listed below.

Please continue to make bookings using the School Interviews link above for Week 1 and Week 2. Times available for booking are:

- Monday 8:30am to 10:00am
- Wednesday 2:30pm to 4:00pm
- Friday 8:30am to 10:00am

Junior School Workbook and Laptop Collection

In order to reduce the number of times families need to attend the School to collect materials we are combining the workbook and laptop collection days into one day – **Friday 4 February**.

The collection day will run from **8:00am to 5:00pm along the main driveway**. For Year 6, Year 7 and new students collecting a laptop, you will be asked to sign an agreement stating your acceptance of Tyndale Christian School's Terms and Conditions. For your review, links to the Device Agreement and the Acceptable User Agreement are below:

Acceptable Use Agreement: <https://bit.ly/3u7HCeq>

Device Agreement: <https://bit.ly/3orz1zF>

Junior School staff will be available to hand out your pack between 1pm and 2pm. Please drive along the drive in an orderly way, remain in your car and your child's teacher can greet you through the window and deliver the workbooks. If you are not able to collect at these times, you can find a plastic tub labelled with your child's year level. Grab one copy and make sure that the lid is replaced. You can do this at any time from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

Year 10 students who retained their laptop from Year 9 in 2021 are asked to keep their existing laptop for the first two weeks of school. We will arrange a day to swap the old laptops for new during Week 3. Please be aware returned devices will be subject to a physical inspection to assess their condition. Charges for damage may apply.

Calendar Changes

In line with SA Government recommendations, the school has cancelled or postponed a number of events and activities for the first month of the school year. While we're disappointed by this, we believe it is the right thing to do to keep our students, families and staff safe. The calendar on the school website is constantly being updated. Please access the calendar on our website here - <https://mb.tyndale.sa.edu.au/calendar/>

School Buses

Due to a range of circumstances, we are currently experiencing a shortage of school bus drivers.

If you are a family already using the bus service and have changes to your arrangements, please contact our Bus Coordinator, Lou Clark, via email LouisClark@tyndale.sa.edu.au, as soon as possible. New families and existing families can also contact Lou if you would like to commence using our bus service.

We will endeavour to accommodate all bus requests, but we ask for your flexibility as we work out how to best cover the needs of our families.

If you have any new school year related questions, please contact the school via phone on 8531 4600 or email MurrayBridge@tyndale.sa.edu.au.

Finally, as the Omicron variant moves through the population, my prayer is that you and all of your loved ones remain safe and as well as possible.

Yours sincerely



Tom Cowell
Principal