



27 July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Return to School

As you are probably already aware, Wednesday 28 July 2021, will see all students return to schools across the state of South Australia. We have come through the lockdown effectively.

If you have not already watched Head of Schools, Mike Potter's latest video, you can access it via Tyndale Christian School's social media or this link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLY_rmIrUboA9EqnUCQjiJw

Mask requirements

Here is a summary of the directives I have received from the Chief Public Health Officer, Professor Nicola Spurrier, via the Association of Independent Schools South Australia (AISSA).

1. Due to the biological nature of the virus combined with human behaviour, there is considered a real risk of further COVID-19 transmission in the South Australian community, with the New South Wales outbreak also remaining a serious and ongoing concern.
2. A key protection that allows South Australians to return to normal daily activities while these risks remain is the use of face masks. When the lockdown period ends at 12.01am Wednesday, 28 July 2021, masks will be required in a range of settings including all indoor public areas.
 - a. Students in Year 8 and above should carry a mask with them and wear it indoors – and where congregating (e.g. the School Cafe);
 - b. adults while indoors, except when teaching or engaging with students, will wear masks;
 - c. staff in meeting rooms when present with other adults, and not eating and drinking will wear masks;
 - d. Students in Year 8 and above on school buses and public transport – must wear masks;
 - e. adult visitors to the School, ELC or OSHC – are to wear masks.

The following exemptions from face mask use apply:

- Junior School and Year 7 students
- ELC staff and children
- staff when teaching or engaging with students
- during PE lessons
- all staff and students when outside
- students or staff who have a medical condition, such as problems with their breathing, a serious skin condition on the face, a disability, or a mental health condition

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How will it look at School?

- Students will be instructed on how to wear a mask during Pastoral Care lesson at 8:45am tomorrow morning.
- Students, when actively engaging in a class discussion during a lesson, do not need to wear a mask.
- When students are working individually in a lesson masks are required.
- During outside activities, including break times and PE, no mask is required.
- For the Small Class, no mask is required.
- For students with ASD and significant sensory needs, no mask is needed.
- For students with a medical condition impacted by a mask, then no mask is required.
- Students in Year 8 and above on school buses wear a mask.
- All parents and visitors on site (including in the ELC) must wear a mask, unless they remain at their car to 'kiss and drop' their child.
- Students in Year 7 and below do not need to wear a mask.

Families, please provide a mask for your Year 8 – Year 12 child to bring to school each day. We anticipate some will not be able to have this ready in time, so we will have some spares available on buses and at School upon arrival tomorrow.

From Thursday 29 July onwards, we anticipate that all families will have either disposable, or better still, the cloth type all-day washable and reusable type masks. Note, given students will not have to wear a mask all day, a single disposable type should last a full day, when carefully and hygienically managed. This is a point staff will reinforce to students.

Please refer to our COVID-19 Update page – link below – and social media channels for regular updates, including information about the postponement or cancellation of various school events.

<https://st.tyndale.sa.edu.au/covid-19-updates/>

I understand that you and your child might have questions about wearing masks. It is important we continue to follow SA Health advice and your continued cooperation is greatly appreciated as we help students and staff with this necessary change.

Thank you very much for your support during the lockdown. I pray that all students and staff can return safely to have a successful day tomorrow. We are certainly looking forward to seeing everyone back on site!

Yours sincerely

Sam Cheesman
Principal

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