



Richmond High School Richmond Agricultural College NEWSLETTER

Term 4, Week 3

October 22, 2021

Welcome Back Year 12!

This week we welcomed back our Year 12 students and could not be happier to see them back on site. We are looking forward to making the next three weeks a memorable time for them all.



Y NSW Online Advocacy and Leadership Program

Congratulations to **Nicholas C** (Year 9), who has been accepted into the second round of the Y NSW Online Advocacy and Leadership Program. This is a six week course designed to enhance the leadership skills, communication and confidence of young people. Nick will be attending weekly online seminars after school starting in Week 4 of Term 4 and he will not only receive a certificate of completion for the course, he'll also be eligible for priority acceptance into 'The Y NSW Youth Parliament 2022' program for next year. As a long-time member of the SRC we know that Nick will make us proud and continue to develop his leadership skills. Well done, Nick!



**All students will be
back at school:
Monday
October 25**

Upcoming Dates

20-29/10/2021	Year 8 VALID Exam Window
20-29/10/2021	Yr 9-10 S2 Online Assessment Period
1-12/11/2021	Yr 7-8 S2 Online Assessment Period
9/11-3/12/2021	HSC Examinations
23/11/2021	Year 7, 2022 Orientation Day
8/12/2021	Year 12 Graduation
9/12/2021	Year 12 Formal
14/12/2021	Presentation Assemblies

School Canteen

Our school canteen is reopen but only for pre ordered lunches.

**Don't forget to
pre order at
the canteen
before school!**



Principal's Message

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to the start of Term 4. We appreciate the ongoing support from our community during what has been a very challenging time. Term 4 brings excitement and the opportunity for our staff and students to return to face to face teaching. We are so grateful to our community and parents who have supported their students to learn from home and have been extremely patient with the changes over the last few months. During Weeks 3-4, we will see our students slowly return to school. We can't wait to welcome you through our gates and support you to re-engage with learning.



Term 4

The **RHS Return to School Guide** and the staggered return of students, has been distributed to our community during Week 2. Even though we have sent this information to everyone, we have all come to appreciate that nothing is a given and the situation can change rapidly. The Senior Executive Team have been planning for the return of students and what that entails at Richmond High School. We hope the information gave you a comprehensive overview of the measures we have put in place. The safety and wellbeing of our students and staff remains our highest priority.

The best learning environment for students is in the classroom and we are looking forward to welcoming back our staff and students to their classrooms. We know that while there will be excitement, there will also be some uncertainty about being back together at school.

This guide is to support the return of students to our school and ensure we have provided our families and students with detailed information about our COVID-safe plan for Richmond High School. We are confident that this, in combination with support from our school community, will minimise risk and help to keep students learning face-to-face next to their peers.

We will always be guided by NSW Health and Department of Education advice and will keep all these changes under review as we move forward throughout Term 4.

Below is an overview of the dates our students will return to Richmond High School:

Week 3	Monday 18 th October Year 12 Return
Week 4	Monday 25 th October All Students Return

Welcome to our New Staff

There are a few new staff who will join the Richmond High School Team for Term 4. We would like to welcome the following staff to our school community and thank them for their support and service to our school and students.



Ms Elise Lewis (R/Deputy Principal)

Ms Ashlea Dale (R/ Head Teacher English)

Mr Brent Hoare (Technology and Applied Sciences)

Mr Christian Culleo (English)

Mr Kevin Blanch (Science)

Ms Melanie Hodgson (PDHPE)

Ms Jenny Layzell (Support)

Ms Suzie Miller (The HIVE)

Ms Sahel Yosufi (Maths)

Casual Staff

I would like to take this opportunity to thank some of our casual staff who have been on site everyday during the learning from home period to support our Essential Worker Students. Mr Kevin Blanch, Ms Jenny Layzell, Ms Lucy Ossington and Ms Sahel Yosufi have been on site throughout the start of Term 4 to help support our students who needed to be on site each day. We could not have supported home learning and on-site students without the help of these wonderful educators. Richmond High School staff are very grateful for your help during this time.

Year 12

Year 12 returned to face to face revision with their teachers from Monday 18th October. We are so excited that we have been able to have them return on site and receive essential time with their teachers prior to their HSC Examinations. I would like to thank Ms Jess Taylor (Year Advisor) and the Welfare Team who have organised the last few weeks of school to be memorable and enjoyable.

The situation in relation to our end of Year 12

celebrations continue to be monitored. We have organised revised dates for the Year 12 Graduation and Year 12 Formal, however, it is important that we acknowledge that these events are still under review and we will await advice from the Department of Education and NSW Health with events and if they can go ahead in a COVID safe manner. We have been told further advice will be provided in Term 4 and the Department of Education are working closely with the mass gatherings team in NSW Health.

At this time, the Year 12 Graduation will be a live stream event, with students only. We are hopeful that this could change and we will update our families. Our Year 12 Formal has been postponed until after the HSC. The venue has confirmed this is a possibility but we have not had guidance if this will be able to happen. Please put the date in your diaries and we will provide more information as it gets closer. The situation in NSW continues to change rapidly and we have everything crossed these events will run for our Graduating Class of 2021.

Year 12 Graduation	Wednesday 8 th Dec, 2021
Year 12 Formal	Thursday 9 th Dec, 2021

Refurbishment and Construction at Richmond High School

In amongst the operation of the school during learning from home planning has continued to progress on the refurbishment of existing buildings and of the grounds. This includes the construction of the Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) building. From the 1st November, parts of the school will be impacted by these works. Parts of the school will be fenced off to provide a construction zone for the works to occur. This includes a significant section of the grounds as well as parts of each block. The work has been staged with a lot of work occurring during school vacations however there will be disruption to our normal operation.

During November and for the majority of 2022 the West Market St entrance to the school site will not be accessible and only to school buses at the commencement and end of the school day. This will be controlled access but Traffic Controllers.

There will also be the need to re-room some classes to allow for work to take place. These changes will have minimal impact on students and staff. All work that progresses has to adhere to strict Health and Safety requirements that have been signed off by the Department of Education at the highest levels.

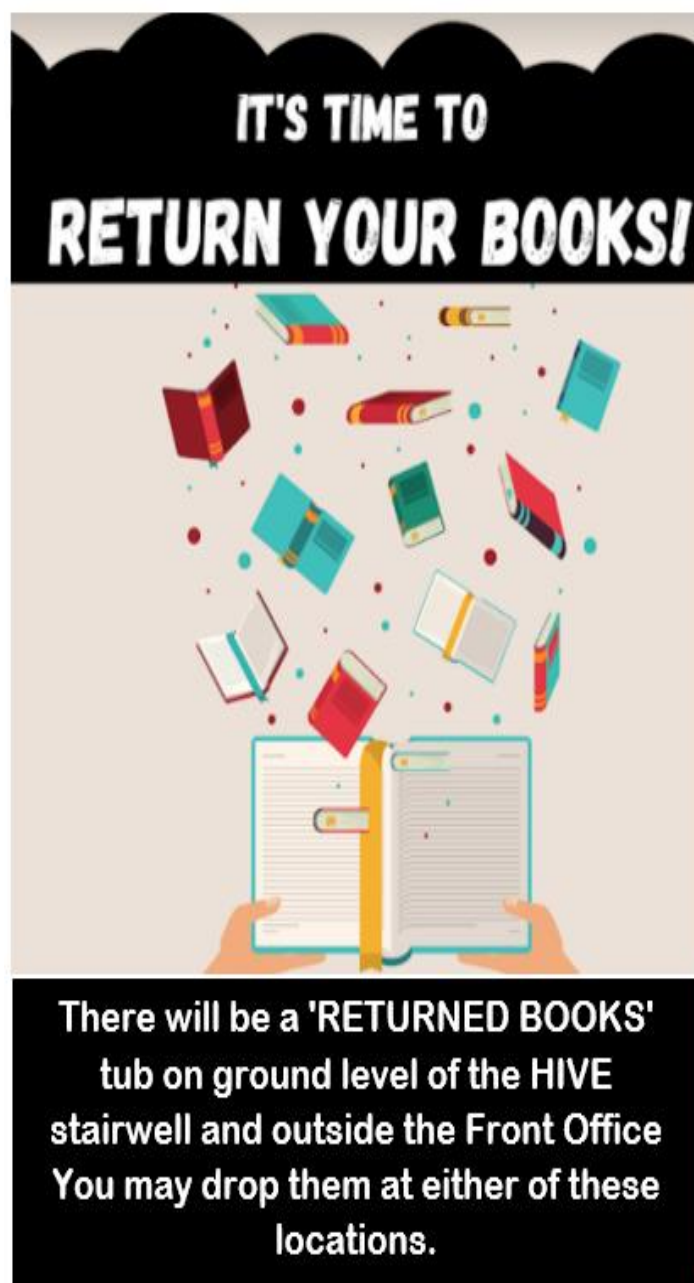
Final Words

I would like to thank the school community for their support as I have transitioned into the role of Relieving Principal. I am looking forward to leading the school throughout the remainder of the year. Mr Cliff Ralph will return to lead the school at the commencement of 2022 and Ms Elise Lewis will be the Deputy Principal for Years 8, 10 & 12.

We look forward to seeing our students back over the next two weeks, engaged in their learning and smiling again with their peers. We are here to support you and your child, please reach out if there is anything we can do to help.

Mrs Tara Cullen

REL PRINCIPAL



**IT'S TIME TO
RETURN YOUR BOOKS!**

There will be a 'RETURNED BOOKS' tub on ground level of the HIVE stairwell and outside the Front Office. You may drop them at either of these locations.

Deputy Principal's Report

Firstly, I would love to welcome all students and staff back to school to resume face to face learning after a long and challenging 15 weeks of lockdown and working from home. Despite the challenges, we have seen outstanding examples of student resilience, determination and commitment to learning through their online engagement. We have also seen the dedication and care from our wonderful staff and parents to support our students and their engagement in learning during this difficult time. I am excited to be stepping into the role of Reliving Deputy Principal whilst Mrs Cullen relieves as Principal of our school in Mr Ralph's absence.

Year 12 Return to School

We had the absolute pleasure of welcoming our Year 12 HSC students back to school on Monday the 18th of October. Waiting at the school gates and greeting our students as they walked in after so long away was an incredible highlight, and seeing their faces again was a wonderful feeling that I, as a Year 12 teacher, won't soon forget. I would like to thank and acknowledge the work of Ms Jessica Taylor, Ms Katherine Profilio and Ms Kelly Bow in putting together a special surprise for our Year 12 students in the form of 'Survival Packs' to keep students feeling motivated and supported to succeed in their final three weeks of schooling before the HSC commences.



Year 12 Webinars

Our Year 12 Webinars held in Week 2 were a highly successful endeavour that yielded great student engagement and positive student feedback as a valuable learning experience to support them through their revision and HSC preparation. I would like to thank and acknowledge our Year 12 teachers for their incredible ongoing work in supporting our Year 12 students through this challenging time. To our Year 12 students, we are incredibly proud of you for what you have achieved and overcome during this time and we are in awe of your resilience and flexibility despite all odds.

Year 10 Senior Jerseys

We are excited to announce the fitting of Year 10 Senior Jerseys for Year 12 2023 and thank Ms Julia Muller, who is the current Year 10 Advisor, for her work in this space. We wish Ms Jo Gibbs all the best with her new baby, Jack, and thank her for her work and support of Year 10. This is an exciting time for our Year 10 students as they prepare for their transition to Senior School and post-school pathways.



Whole-School Return and Assessment Period

We are incredibly excited to welcome our Year 7-11 students back on site on Monday the 25th of October. Whilst we appreciate that this adjustment to school routines and procedures might take some getting used to, we are so pleased that we can finally resume face to face teaching and our core business of supporting our students to succeed in class. Our Stage 5 Assessment Period started in Week 3 and continues throughout Week 4. To support this, we ask that all students in Year 10 who have a device to please bring this to school to enable online access to assessment tasks whilst at school. Year 7, 8, 9 and 11 students are required to bring a device everyday to school as part of the existing BYOD program. Please ensure that you bring your laptop chargers to school to avoid issues with batteries running flat.

Our Stage Four Assessment Period takes place in Weeks 5 and 6 this term and we encourage students to try their best and be a '5 for effort' in their completion of these tasks. Assessment is a crucial part of school operations and teaching and learning processes to enable teachers

to accurately measure a students understanding, skills and progress towards learning outcomes. We understand the challenges at this time and the diverse online learning experiences of our students. This assessment period will enable teachers to gain a clear snapshot of where each child is at and how to adjust teaching and learning accordingly to maximise and support student outcomes.

Covid-Safe procedures

The return to on-site learning is greatly anticipated by students and staff alike. Despite this, we understand that some students and parents may have mixed feelings about returning to school face to face. Although this is an uncertain time for our community, the staff at Richmond High School are committed to supporting students and families feel safe and comfortable at school whilst aligning to Departmental and NSW Health requirements. We have comprehensive Covid-safe strategies, plans and procedures to keep students safe throughout the day, including the separate cohort model and an abundance of masks, antiseptic wipes and hand sanitizer. We encourage students and families to reach out if they need support during this time as they transition back to face to face teaching. Whilst it will be an adjustment for everyone, we ask that all students strive to meet school expectations to conduct themselves in a Covid-safe manner and follow all teacher instructions to ensure student safety and maximise learning time.

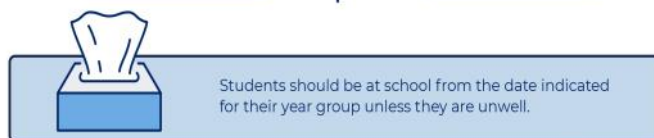
We thank you in advance for your support of our school in making our site a safe and supportive learning environment and cannot wait to see our wonderful students!

Ms Elise Lewis
REL Deputy Principal

NSW Department of Education

COVID-safe operations for schools

Students return to face-to-face learning in staged cohorts. COVID-safe operations are maintained through high rates of staff and student vaccination, safe rostering and physical distancing.



Drop-offs and pick-ups

Drop-offs and pick-ups will be by staggered groups and all entrances and exits will be used to start and finish school days.

Please follow the physical distancing rules, avoid gathering outside gates, remain off school grounds and wear a mask. (Some exceptions made for vulnerable students.)

Try to stay in the car. This does not apply to (OOSHC). Sign-in procedures are required.



Masks

Masks will be required indoors for all staff and students Year 7 and above and masks are strongly recommended indoors for primary school students.

Students should bring their own masks where possible, but schools will have back-up supplies just in case. Masks are also required for all travel on public transport for children 12 years and older.

Ventilation

Open or well-ventilated spaces reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 because infectious particles are more quickly diffused in the open air than in spaces with less ventilation. Outdoor settings will be used where practicable.



Hand hygiene & cleaning

Students will be reminded to wash their hands often. Sanitisers, soaps, paper towels and other essential items will be readily available for students.

Enhanced cleaning will continue on our school site.

Vaccination

All adults on school sites must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, including employees, contractors, volunteers and essential visitors.

Students aged 12 or above are now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination. Parents and carers can book in a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine now.



Download from your App Store:

Once downloaded then search for 'Richmond High School'

Youth Voice In Parliament Entry

This year, as part of the 'Raise Our Voice', students are asked to write a 90 second speech on a topic of their choosing, focusing on the question 'What is your vision for Australia in 20 years?'

Year 7 student, **Twaha N**, composed and submitted the following speech about gender equality. Congratulations on your participation, Twaha, and best of luck - we hope that your speech is chosen to be read in Parliament!



'What is your definition of gender equality?'

Well mine is having equal rights and the same opportunities no matter what gender you are.

I am a girl and I have faced multiple setbacks in life just because of my gender. At a young age, different people have told me that I can't do specific things because I am a girl. I've realised that this sort of discrimination can happen anywhere. Work, school, anywhere you name.

My experiences are proof that gender inequality starts at a young age, meaning it has a profound influence on how you experience and approach life. When doing group work in primary school, my confidence and sincere efforts often meant I was being called "bossy" and "selfish". However, when a boy took the lead, people thanked and respected them. In saying this, I want people to understand that it's not their fault this happens - it's a disturbing societal problem where people are treated differently for reasons they cannot control.

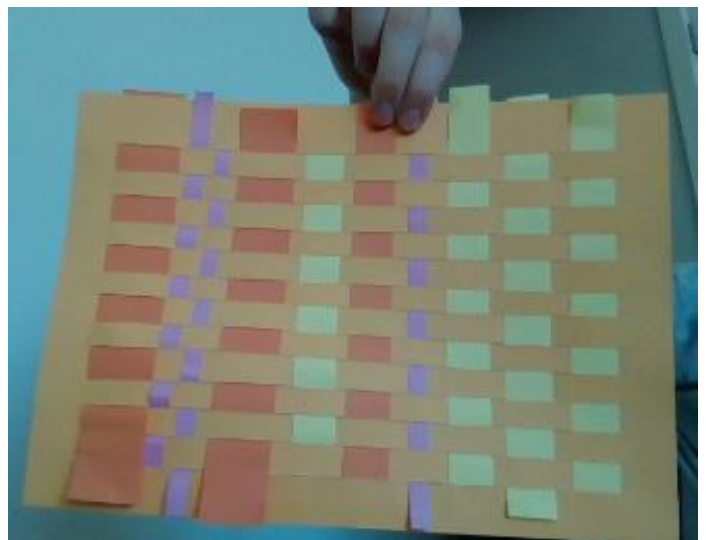
So, "What is my vision of Australia in 20 years?" I want to see Australia become a safe environment for everyone. I want to see people doing activities without judgement. In schools, I want to see people empowering each other and supporting each other, instead of labelling people as "bossy" or "selfish". I want to see people living harmoniously in Australia without fighting about if someone is a boy, girl, black or white. It shouldn't be surprising when a woman or a person of colour achieves

something. We should still celebrate their achievements, but it should not be surprising, because that is the minute you expect them to fail. We can overcome gender inequality by empowering the anyone that surrounds you by doing the bare minimum. You can help by complimenting women in charge and become a part of campaigns that enforces a safe environment for men to show emotion. This is what my vision of Australia is in 20 years.'

Written by **Twaha N** (Year 7)

Support

Stage 4R has been learning about Textiles in their TAS lessons with Ms Galea. Whilst they were learning from home the students completed a weaving project using paper. They created a loom and the warp threads from cardboard, then used coloured paper strips for the weft threads making colourful patterns. Featured here are weaving projects by **Tyler S**, Year 8 and **Austin K**, Year 7.



UP TO DATE DETAILS

Have your contact details changed? It is vital that we have your up to date contact details in case of an emergency.

Please contact the Front Office staff as soon as possible if there have been any changes to your contact details.

RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL P&C NOTICEBOARD

The P&C committee meets on the second Tuesday of every month with the exception of school holidays.

Meetings temporarily on hold.

New members always welcome!

Email : richmondhighschool@pandcaffiliate.org.au

COMMITTEE

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School Opal Card:

Students, please ensure you Tap On and Tap Off!

