



Good afternoon, Foxwell Families

As announced by the Premier on Sunday 9 January, the start of the 2022 school year in Queensland will move from 24 January to 7 February 2022 to avoid opening schools during the predicted peak of the Omicron wave and allow more time for children to receive their COVID-19 vaccinations, should families wish for this to happen. Given yesterday's announcement by Queensland Chief Health Officer John Gerrard that he expected the Omicron wave to peak on the Gold Coast next week, it is important that the health and wellbeing of our College community remains paramount as we plan for the start of the school year, and that we take all steps to mitigate risk to our staff, students and families.

Foxwell State Secondary College will open for children of **essential workers** and vulnerable children from Monday 24 January to Friday 4 February 2022. Of course, the College will not open on Wednesday 26 January due to the Australia Day public holiday.

Essential workers are only those who absolutely must continue to attend their workplace during this time. The Department of Education has asked all parents to consider the Chief Health Officer's advice and stay home with their children if you can. If you need to send your child to school, you must ensure your child is well and not displaying any signs of illness.

If your child is unwell:

- they are not to attend school, even if they only have the mildest of symptoms;
- you are encouraged to seek medical advice;
- your child is not to return to school until the symptoms have resolved.

If your child becomes unwell at school, we will ask you to collect them from school immediately. Please ensure your personal details and emergency contact details are up-to-date.

SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN OF ESSENTIAL WORKERS AND VULNERABLE STUDENTS

To minimise transmission and further protect the health and safety of our College community, school staff on site will be kept to a minimum. **There will not be any curriculum or structured learning delivered during this time.** There will be no provision for remote learning for students who remain at home.

In Queensland, legislation states that children 12 years of age or older can be left at home on their own for a reasonable amount of time. The decision to leave your 12+ year old child at home unattended is a personal one, based on your family situation and your child's individual circumstances.

Families can expect that students who attend school will engage in supervised activities. This supervision of students will be managed as outlined below:

STUDENT ORGANISATION



On Monday 24 January 2022, students are to arrive by 8.45am and move to the relevant area for roll marking (the gates will open at 8.15am). Students will be able to find out their roll class upon arrival:

- Year 7 - Amphitheatre
- Year 8 - Sports Performance Hall
- Year 9 - The Learning Hub

Students are to remain socially-distanced and, if indoors, wear a mask. They are to keep their bags and belongings with them. Students will then be organised into groups for the day:

- 1) Class groupings will be determined on a day-to-day basis depending on the students present and may be multi-age groupings;
- 2) Class groupings will be required to remain in their group for the entire day. This includes in class time (they remain in the allocated classroom for each lesson) and during break times;
- 3) Students will be allocated to a designated area for break times and will not be able to move between areas. They will have access to amenities as relevant to their location;
- 4) Unless otherwise notified, all other areas are out-of-bounds.



STUDENT FREE DAYS

MONDAY 24 JANUARY TO FRIDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2022



SUPERVISED ACTIVITIES

Students will be supervised by school staff. Students can expect to engage in the following: quiet reading;

- board games, puzzles and other similar activities;
- activities on their iPad. Students are to bring their iPad with them and can engage with school-appropriate games and activities. The Student Code of Conduct relevant to ICT misuse remains in place as do the requirements of the ICT agreements signed by students and families. Students can access Mr Harper to support them in ensuring their iPad is ready for school use;
- any other activity provided by the supervisors.

Students **will not be engaging in indoor or outdoor physical activity** (e.g. HPE activities, drama, dance) during these supervised sessions.



SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

Masks: Students are required to wear masks indoors at all times; this means during each supervised session. Masks must also be worn if students are outdoors and not socially-distanced from another (i.e. not 1.5 metres apart).

Any student wishing to apply for an **exemption** will be asked to provide medical evidence to support their application. All students wishing to be granted an exemption in 2022 must apply in writing to admin@foxwellssc.edu.au. Students are encouraged to wear a surgical mask or a P2/N95 mask as it provides greater protection than a cloth mask, according to the latest information from Queensland Health.

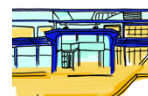
Ventilation: Air-conditioners will not be in use in classrooms during this period. Windows and doors of classrooms will be open. Access to the outdoor space outside classrooms may be used as per the supervisor's instructions.



ACCESSING COLLEGE GROUNDS AND RESOURCES

Access to grounds and resources will be limited across the entire two-week period and includes:

- *The College **gates** will open at 8.15am;
- *The **Canteen** will be closed until the formal start of the school year on 7 February 2022. Students will need to bring a packed lunch, water bottle etc. from 24 January to 4 February;
- *No access to the **Learning Hub** before, during or after school hours unless directed by the supervisor;
- *No access to the **Games Room** during break times
- *No access to the **Sports Performance Hall** during break times
- *All verandas will be out-of-bounds during the lunch break.



If your child is attending school during the period of 24 January to 4 February 2022, please note the information below:

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS



Students are to be in full uniform each day. Whether in sport or formal uniform, the student must ensure that they are meeting the full requirements of that particular uniform e.g. if wearing the formal uniform, they must also wear the formal hat. All other uniform requirements apply, including those relating to jewellery/piercing, hair and makeup. Please refer to the key information below and review the College's Dress Code and Acceptable Footwear Guide, available via [this link](#) to the College's website:



BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS

The College's Student Code of Conduct will apply as per usual. It is expected that students who are in attendance during this time will adhere to the College's Rules, SPIRIT Values and classroom expectations. Any student in breach of the Code of Conduct can expect that there will be appropriate outcomes, including disciplinary action, for their misconduct. Please review Foxwell State Secondary College's Student Code of Conduct with your child via [this link](#) to our College website.



STUDENT FREE DAYS

MONDAY 24 JANUARY TO FRIDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2022



TRAVEL TO SCHOOL VIA BUS

If your child will be accessing public transport to and from the College, they must wear a mask while travelling. The information currently available is that not all bus services will be running at this time. Please refer to the following communication from Surfside Buslines:

For the latest update please visit: <https://www.surfside.com.au/school-service-updates>. For School timetable information please visit: <https://www.surfside.com.au/school-services>.

We will not be operating any cross-border school services during this time and will provide an update once cross-border school services resume. If you have any questions or queries, please contact the Customer Service Team on (07) 5552 2700.

The College will continue to provide further updates when they become available. Please continue to check the [Translink Website](#) for more information.



STUDENTS REQUIRING MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

If your child requires staff to administer medication at school, or your child has a current Medical/Health Action Plan, please contact administration prior to 24 January 2022 to schedule a time to visit the College to deliver the medication/plan and complete the necessary documentation.



FAQS (AS AT 18 JANUARY 2022)

1) Will my child miss out on making connections with their class teacher/classmates if they are not at school for the first two-week period and will be at school for the official start of the school year on Monday 7 February?

No – there will be various staff supervising your child during this two-week period and they will not be in their 2022 allocated classes.

2) I am an essential worker and must send my child to school. How will my new high-schooler (Year 7s) or new Foxwell student (new Year 8s and 9s) be supported during this two-week period?

Our staff will ensure our newest Foxwell family members are made to feel safe and part of our school. We will assist them in finding their way around and making connections, as much as we possibly can at this time.

3) Does my child need to be vaccinated to attend school? Will you be testing students?

No – there are no mandates for children to be vaccinated to attend Queensland schools. For further advice please refer to the current guidelines from Queensland Health. We will not be testing students or checking temperatures.

4) What time does school start for the two-week supervision period?

Normal school hours apply for the two weeks. It is recommended children arrive at school as close as possible to the start of the school day (by 8:35am).

5) Can I pick my child up early after my shift finishes?

Yes. Please provide your child with a letter requesting early departure, including the name of your child, date and time of collection. Students must be collected from the office. Please adhere to this process to ensure the safety of your child. Students will not receive approval to walk home prior to the end of the school day.



PLANNING FOR RETURN TO SCHOOL – MONDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2022

All students will be expected back to school for the start of the year on Monday 7 February 2022. In preparing for the start of school, please note the following points regarding Day 1. Please ensure your child:

- arrives at school by 8.35am, but not before 8am;
- is in FULL FORMAL UNIFORM INCLUDING HAT AND BLACK LEATHER SHOES and approved school bag;
- brings with them their iPad, four A4 books and writing instruments/pencil case;
- has a water bottle that can be refilled during break times
- has sufficient food for their morning tea, lunch and afternoon break.



Finally, please note the following guidelines, which are to be followed from 24 January 2022:

- 1) social distancing is required when dropping off or picking up your child. Students can meet their parents in the car park or in the 2-minute MAXIMUM stop-drop-go zone;
- 2) mask mandates apply to all visitors to the College, including parents;
- 3) all students can attend school regardless of their vaccination status.

We understand that the plan for our return to school this year may create challenges for families; please be assured these decisions have been made as a necessary response to the evolving COVID-19 situation.

The Department of Education will continue to keep all principals up-to-date with any further changes to schooling over the coming weeks and we will continue to provide families with this information as it becomes available. We encourage you to stay informed of the latest developments relating to COVID-19 by regularly visiting the Queensland Government website.

We appreciate your support and cooperation during these challenging times as we negotiate a very different start to the school year. Please continue to communicate with us with any questions or concerns you may have regarding our plan for the next two weeks via our regular communication channel – email admin@foxwellssc.eq.edu.au. Please do not use Facebook Messenger as your mode of communication as this is not regularly monitored.

We look forward to seeing all students back at Foxwell State Secondary College on Monday 7 February 2022.