



Court Grammar School

INTEGRITY • HUMILITY • COMMUNITY

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Caregivers

COVID Update Number 1/2022 – 25 January 2022

Starting school

A very Happy New Year and welcome back to Court Grammar for 2022. We all hope that the break was restful and that our students are keen to return to school. We have been here for a few weeks already preparing for that which is now not happening on 5 February!

I have been reluctant to give you any advice on returning to school as we have been awaiting the Operational Guidelines from the Government that have NOT yet been released. However, there are a few things I can give you information about.

We currently have 2 staff members unable to get into WA since the borders are no longer opening on 5 February and we are putting all our efforts into assisting them to commence as soon as possible. In the meanwhile, we have alternate arrangements in place.

1. Vaccinations

Staff

I can assure parents that any staff member working at CGS must comply with the government's health directions pertaining to vaccinations; that is, all staff must be double vaccinated before they return to school. Today we have heard the announcement that they also have 30 days after becoming eligible to have their booster shots. We have already established a record keeping process as part of our online database. Any contractors working at the School must meet the same vaccination benchmark.

Parents/Caregivers

We encourage parents/caregivers and anyone who wishes to come onto the School grounds to attend a function or meet with staff, to be vaccinated. To assist further, booster shots will further enhance the safety of students and our wider community. At this stage, there is no vaccination mandate for functions under 500, however, there is a high likelihood that attendance for visitors on school grounds may be subject to more rigorous vaccination protocols moving forward.

Students

As a baseline, we urge parents/caregivers to have their children vaccinated sooner rather than later. Preferably it assists if teenagers are double vaccinated. For the younger children, first doses will assist with COVID related safety.

Can I assure you that we will **NEVER** vaccinate any child without Parent or Caregivers permission and that we would not be naming or shaming any student due to vaccination status.

We have not been advised that schooling is only for the vaccinated and if any of these rules change, we will let you know immediately.

Neither have we been advised or provided with Rapid Antigen Tests for Staff or students, and we will not be using them without your knowledge or approval. If Government rules tell us otherwise, we inform you first.

2. Teaching and Learning and Pastoral Wellbeing

Our priority is to have students attend classes and be engaged with their normal academic, wellbeing and pastoral care programmes. In the advent of any COVID related restrictions, isolations or lockdowns, we will utilise our online programme "Court at Home", in conjunction with in-person teaching. Our goal is to ensure that class continuity occurs and that our students can progress through their respective content.

It is always the School's expectation that students should attend school in person. Online learning is a last resort and will only be implemented if we deem it necessary due to parameters or COVID implications that are out of our control.

3. Hygiene and safety

The School will continue to implement its cleaning and hygiene regimes as implemented for COVID in 2020 and 2021, cleaning, hand sanitation, tracking of visitors using QR codes and, where applicable, appropriate social distancing. The use of masks will be implemented in accordance with guidelines.

The issue of ventilation is still under consideration; however, this matter is being addressed as part of the development of government protocols, and we will decide on this matter once further information and protocols are available.

4. Masks

We are informed that all secondary students and Teachers are to be wearing masks indoors when school commences. Teachers do not wear masks when teaching.

Primary students are not yet required to wear masks. But this is **likely** to change for Year 3's and up **if** we have an outbreak.

5. Medications

We are having a great deal of difficulty with the supply of **Panadol** and the like. So please ensure your student has whatever they may need with them.

6. Canteen/Cafeteria

We are already finding a shortage of supplies and cannot guarantee that we will have the variety and quantity of food as we did last year. We will let you know as we move ahead but please try and provide for your child where possible to ensure they are nourished.

In closing, I wish to reiterate what I have said throughout my previous communications regarding COVID. That is:

Communication circulated by other schools/public conjecture/stories in the press and any other communication that has not emanated from my office, does not constitute our current nor future position regarding COVID and the operation of our School. If a change and/or update is shared with you via any other source than my official updates, which will be numbered by year and edition, then it is simply someone's opinion or rumor.

It is my intention to ensure, where possible, that we will communicate with our community regularly. The situation is very fluid and complicated, and this puts everyone under a great deal of stress, but together we can do our best to ensure our students have as smooth a start to the 2022 school year as possible. Every decision we make will have the safety and wellbeing of our students at the core.

With every best wish



Patricia Rodrigues (Ms)
Principal