



30 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your support as we continue to work together to respond to COVID-19. As we prepare to begin remote learning on Tuesday 5 October, I am writing to update you that the NSW Government has today announced changes to the schedule for students returning to school later in Term 4.

This means that **students will be welcomed back to school a week sooner than previously scheduled by the Government.** The new plan will see Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 12, students return to face-to-face learning on Monday 18 October. Years 2, 6 and 11 will follow on Monday 25 October. All other students will return on Monday 1 November.

With the safety of our community as our highest priority, we will continue to follow the health advice, which includes strong support for vaccinations. During Term 3, 12 Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta schools needed to close for a short time as a result of COVID-19 cases within school communities. We are ready to help if there are any further cases as more students begin to return to school in Term 4.

Your child's school will be in contact with further information about the return to school plan. For many secondary schools, the schedule for face-to-face learning for students in Years 7 to 11 will need to be flexible so that the larger candidature HSC exams can be held under COVID-safe conditions.

From all of our caring staff, I sincerely thank you for your partnership during this very difficult time for our community. As always, please reach out to your child's school if your family needs further support as we approach the return to face-to-face learning.

We will continue to keep you updated about any further changes.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Whitby'.

**Gregory B Whitby AM KSG FACE FACEL**  
Executive Director  
Catholic Education  
Diocese of Parramatta