

From the Principal



Term 2, 2020

I wish all families well at this challenging time. I am aware that this is our first newsletter this term. A lot has happened since our last newsletter.

School takes clear steps to minimise the likelihood of germs spreading.

Most of our students have returned to school. If your child has not returned and you have not already done so can I encourage you to touch base with the Principal to discuss when your child might return.

The school has implemented a number of strategies to ensure that we are social distancing. We provide hand sanitiser stations across the school. We have clear signage about social distancing and hygiene.

Continued Page 1

What's on?

2 July – Reports Issued to Students

3 July – Last day of Term 2

21 July – First day of Term 3 – all students

10-21 August HSC Trial Examinations

25 August – Parent-Teacher Night

Safe and Respectful



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

The school has enhanced cleaning that happens throughout the day with handles tables and any high touch surfaces being wiped down regularly by cleaners whose sole purpose is to move around the school and clean.

All classrooms have hand sanitiser, paper towels and cleaner so that students can wipe down their work surfaces before and after use. We are a relatively small school so we are able to keep numbers in classrooms low and better facilitate social distancing when moving around the school. If we suspect that a child is exhibiting symptoms of a cold or flu we move them out of the classroom take their temperature and monitor them.

If they continue to exhibit symptoms we call families and request that the student be taken home and tested. Please support us in this by not sending your child to school if they exhibit any signs of cold or flu.

We are asking for parents not to come onto the school site unless permission is granted for specific purposes until we are advised differently by the NSW Department of Education Health and Safety Directorate.

Developing a new school strategic plan – Parents will be asked to provide input

We are currently evaluating our 2018 to 2020 school strategic plan. To do this we look very closely at a vast amount of data to understand what gains we have made and what we need to focus upon to improve. Just to give you an understanding of the data that the school looks at I have listed a small snapshot of it below:

- HSC results across all subjects compared with the school previous results and the school's results compared against the state;
- NAPLAN results. As you know the 2020 NAPLAN did not run so we do not have that data. However, the school collects Literacy and Numeracy Data using the ACER PAT tests for comprehension reading and numeracy. The ACER PAT test is similar to NAPLAN but can be administered by individual schools – It provides more timely information to schools that allow them to respond quickly to student learning needs;
- Tell Them From Me Survey, (TTFM). This is a wellbeing survey that collects information about students' perception of engagement and wellbeing;
- Data from our school's management system looking at student behaviour, attendance, completion of assessment tasks;
- School level assessment of students' progress in programs such as the literacy/numeracy program the runs in Years 7 and 8;

Have you washed your hands?

Clean your hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand rub to protect yourself from viruses.

Find the facts health.nsw.gov.au/coronavirus

Practise simple hygiene by washing hands regularly

1 Wet hands 2 Apply soap 3 Lather & scrub

4 Rinse hands 5 Turn off tap 6 Dry hands

Spend 20 seconds washing your hands.

Protect yourself from viruses

- Clean** your hands with soap and water, or hand sanitiser.
- Cover** your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze.
- Avoid** close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms.
- Stay home** if you are sick.

Find the facts health.nsw.gov.au/coronavirus

- Qualitative data based upon surveys from students' staff and the community.

We will also provide an opportunity for parents and carers to provide feedback in the form of a survey and are looking at running a forum with some focus questions to gain more detailed feedback from families. This will likely be run in an online meeting due to Covid 19 restrictions. I encourage all parents and carers to participate in this survey when it is published.

The information that we gain will support the school in developing the next strategic plan. The strategic plan provides clear direction for the school over the next planning cycle and is an important tool for schools in improving from year to year.

JJ Cahill Memorial High School - Focused upon Learning and Student Wellbeing

We are aware that not all students were able to engage in online learning in the same way. To support families, we loaned computers as requested.

Teachers did an amazing job of developing online learning programs and resources and supporting students to help them feel less isolated and engage in learning.

The school had to develop a consistent approach for delivering learning from Years 7 to 12 across every subject. We utilised Google Classroom and eventually Zoom to conference with students.

We needed to find ways of tracking student engagement and following up with families to communicate with them if there was a concern. Letters were emailed home to families to inform them if their child was not engaging in online learning.

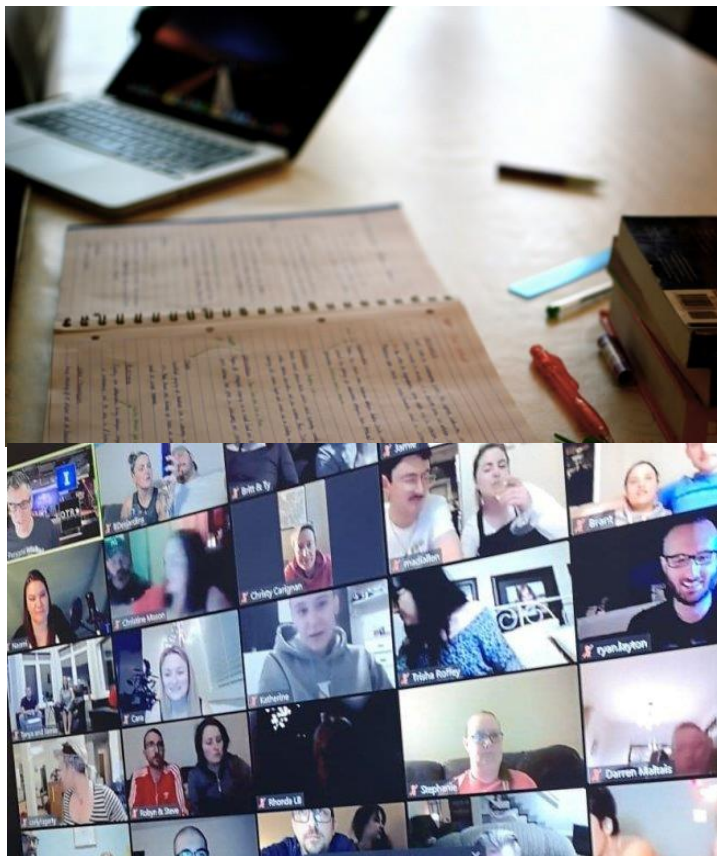
This was followed up with phone calls resulting in improving the teachers' and school's understanding of issues that were preventing students successfully engaging in online learning.

A big thank you to families who supported their children during this challenging time.

Since we have returned we have been strongly focused upon getting students back into the routine of learning as well as supporting their wellbeing.

Going into the July Winter holidays, please be safe and we look forward to your child's return to school on the 21st July 2020.

Sincerely
Ralph David
Principal JJCMHS



NEWS FROM THE SUPPORT UNIT

The students, parents, carers, teachers and SLSO's in the Special Education faculty responded positively to the challenges presented by Covid-19. Students engaged to the best of their ability with the opportunities that emerged in their learning. Parents and carers reached out for support with the learning from home environment and with hardcopy-based course content. They did a wonderful job in assisting the learning of students and with managing the wellbeing of the young people they care for. The faculty would like to encourage families to continue their efforts in encouraging students with their learning, even though we have now returned to full-time face-to-face teaching.

Melissa Ryan created an amazing online/integrated unit of work for SU2 Food Technology this term called "Grow your Own". The classwork was placed on Google Classroom and parents were encouraged to collect their child's pack from the school.

As you can see pictured at right, a hard copy of the work was included in the pack as a parent guide. There were also safety guidelines and gloves for students to use when using the potting mix.

This unit continued throughout Term 2 regardless of where each student was doing their learning.

This unit addresses a number of outcomes across Life Skills **English** (observation, procedures, writing/photographing descriptions) **Maths** (data collection), **HSIE** (weather, sustainability), **Science** and **Technology** (Agriculture).

Rebecca Grammat,
HT Support Unit (Rel)





*Congratulations to Max Morgan,
from SU2, for receiving his
Principal's Medal. Well-done, Max!*

A WORD FROM THE HSIE/CAPA FACULTY

Teachers across the HSIE and CAPA faculty worked hard to support our students online and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work. I would also like to thank our students who engaged online, completing set work, used the software, watched the videos and completed coursework. All work was posted in the Google Classroom and students were encouraged to ask their teachers any questions. The HSIE and CAPA faculty implemented a range of strategies to ensure students had opportunities to talk to their teachers through the use of Virtual Conferences which is either Zoom or Microsoft teams.

The Music faculty implemented a range of innovative strategies, employed the regular use of pre-recordings and the use of software called Soundtrap to increase student engagement. The Visual Arts teachers also implemented a range of innovative strategies to cater to the needs of the theoretical and practical components of the course. The HSIE faculty have implemented a range of strategies and the regular use of visual, film and software such as Education Perfect. All of these strategies will support our students and increase engagement.

VISUAL ARTS

Students were strongly encouraged to join all virtual conferences, complete all set work and contact their teachers if required. We were impressed with those students who regularly completed all set work and who engaged in the virtual conferences.

Visual Arts teachers, Ms McInnes and Mrs Ryan, embraced the transition to the online platform of Google Classroom amid the COVID-19 pandemic, implementing a mixture of strategies to engage students in the theoretical and practical components of the course. Our Visual Arts students at JJ Cahill Memorial High School have been painting like modernist artists, drawing the human figure using delicate lines, researching the Archibald Prize Exhibition, creating Surrealist worlds and learning about the difference between Street Art and Graffiti through the creation of mock 'tags', graffiti and murals using online software.

We have been impressed by the continued commitment of our talented students and the creativity they continue to pursue beyond the confines of the Art Rooms in their virtual environment and then back for full time face-to-face classes. We acknowledge their resilience and dedication in adapting to these new learning conditions.



Art History and Criticism

ROSEMARY FELISE SAMOA



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Reconciliation Week

A fitting theme for Reconciliation Week, "In this Together", was set this year. We as a community held a virtual assembly where we Acknowledged Country and raised awareness for this very important week.

Thank you to Mr McNaught and Ms Lawson for collaborating with me on the Reconciliation Week Virtual Assembly. Thank you to the HSIE faculty, English Faculty and Support Unit for delivering this virtual assembly throughout the week. A further thank you to Ms Fahy, our librarian, for creating a display section and Mr Potter, our careers advisor and website coordinator, for posting the Reconciliation banner on our school website. Finally thank you to all of our students who actively and respectfully participated in the assembly.

Thank you,

Sian Batista De Mello,

Head Teacher HSIE/CAPA



All the Amazing Art Works!

Ms McInnes' art room has been humming with productivity the last few weeks. Year 7 continue to work on their 'Mulga the Artist' inspired paintings using native Australian animals and Australian lifestyle and culture for their artworks. The enthusiasm is ripe, with a large amount of students returning in their lunch breaks to continue on with their painting. We have been very impressed with their efforts, colour mixing and sense of humour in their artworks.



Year 10 students continue to create studies of their chosen teachers for the JJ Archies while Year 9 students complete surrealist CD etchings and their Vinyl Record landscape artworks - on to sculptural forms next!

The HSC visual arts students have been solidly developing their Body of Works in a wide variety of artmaking forms - this year we have artworks with elements of photography, drawing, painting, ceramics and typography. Evidently there has been exciting developments in the visual arts area as the term nears an end.

Ms McInnes
Art Teacher

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN TAS?

During the rapid transition from face to face learning to online learning, and now the full-time return to school, the TAS/PDHPE faculty have been hard at work. What an amazing job they are doing to provide quality education for our students through these testing and difficult times. Whether it be instructional videos or online demonstrations (and everything in between), the TAS/PDHPE staff have adapted and are thriving on these new teaching and learning opportunities.



In TAS, Years 7 and 8 are currently completing units such as 'Sustainable Agriculture' or 'Design Thinking'. In Years 9 and 10, students are continuing with their Building and Construction, Food Technology, IST, Textiles, Timber and Multimedia classwork and projects (some of these are the theoretical component until face to face teaching returns).

Year 11 and 12 are still able to complete parts of their competency tasks in VET courses, work on projects in Multimedia and continue learning within Food Technology with topics such as 'Food Product Development'.

In PDHPE, students have been continuing learning as per usual. Year 7 have completed learning on adolescence and change and are now looking at respectful relationships. Year 8 are moving on from risk and will be studying drug use and first aid. With Year 9 finishing their unit on shaping identity, they will now look at adolescent health and issues that may occur during this time of their lives.

Year 10 have completed their fit for life unit and have commenced looking at sporting culture. In regards to physical education, all students in 7-10 have been required to complete a physical activity journal. This means students have to complete physical activity each day during the week and record what they have done in a journal. They are also to upload a brief sample of what they have been doing.

We have received some great examples of students juggling toilet paper, completing fitness circuits, boxing and working out in home gyms. In regards to our senior courses, students are being provided with a variety of learning opportunities to ensure they do not fall behind in these important times of their education.

Mr McNaught
HT TAS/PDHPE (Rel)

WHAT IS CIRCUIT TRAINING?

Circuit training is a fast paced body conditioning workout method that combines several strength training and high-intensity aerobic exercises (4 -10 exercises) to create a circuit.



The School Garden

Progress continues to completion in Construction of all 9 treated pine timber sleeper planter boxes.

Year 12 and 10 Construction and Timber students, along with the great assistance of Mr Potter, Mr Heffernan and Mr McNaught, have just made the May schedule deadline. Supervision by Ms Frazi and Ms Welch has also aided in this, along with Fernan – our tireless General Assistant, who helped with the supplies of materials.

Many thanks to all for this team effort, which makes a project like this proceed with success!

The last stage is to align & level them neatly from below so they all sit well on the undulating ground. It is relatively quick and easy to do, along with some laying of irrigation plastic pipe and the supporting steel strapping to secure planter boxes to the perimeter edge.

Installation of the 3000-litre water tank will provide the sustainable recycled rain water (from the adjacent library roof) to nourish the growth of all planter box vegetation.

This will then make it ready for:

- Laying geo tech fabric
- spreading and compacting the decomposed granite
- and box garden mix soil fill.

** This will see the opening of the school community garden soon after and a bearded visitor from the ABC is rumoured to come by to observe and report!
Mr A Morris.

School Community Garden – From Mr Potter

The construction of the school's community garden is progressing well now that school has been back full time for the majority of this term. Students have had multiple opportunities to engage in the construction phase during Year 12 construction classes, as well as opportunities outside of class for some year 10 students who are looking to build on their technical and employability skills. Once the main construction phase is complete, more students will have opportunities to engage with the project in a variety of ways through classes in most of the key learning areas. It is exciting to see the plan coming together and more students getting involved. A big thank you to Mr Morris for leading the construction work, and to all other teachers and students involved.



Year 8 and the Archimedes Screw!



This week, some of our Year 8 students have been working on creating simple machines in their Technology Mandatory class with Mr Hooper and Ms Kharitos.

Using the Archimedes Screw method we learned in class, students were able to successfully transfer water from a lower height to the top of their screws. Here are some of the simple machines they created. Well done guys!



Careers

With so many careers' related events being cancelled due to the health advice, many more online opportunities have been created in their place.

Our students have been given multiple opportunities to engage in virtual careers expos, HSC seminars, and information sessions to support their career exploration and quest for further education and training.

All Year 12 students have been requested to complete a google form named **Beyond the HSC – Career Journey Reflections** that has allowed the careers advisor to assess each student's career journey thus far, and provide explicit feedback that supports each student to achieve their career goal and chosen pathway.

These opportunities have been communicated through each year group's Google Classroom with instructions on how to participate. The following links are just some of these opportunities;

<https://www.torrens.edu.au/about/virtual-careers-expo>

<https://www.hscandcareers.com.au/seminars/seminars-2> **username:** seminaraccess **password:** Euug853ux
(case sensitive i.e. capital E)

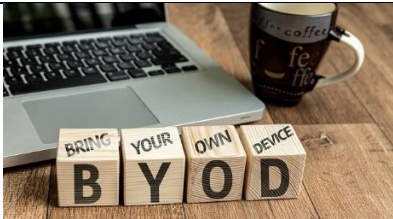





<https://www.thebigdayin.com.au/past-events>

<https://thecareerexpo.com.au/june2020>

<https://year13.com.au/expo>

School Website

Our school's website has undergone a bit of a makeover while students were learning from home. The website now includes a range of additional and supportive pages and sites to support our school community. These include;

 <p>BYOD Hub</p>	 <p>Wellbeing Hub</p>	 <p>Library Hub</p>
 <p>Online Learning Hub</p>	 <p>Careers Hub</p>	 <p>VET Hub</p>

A big thank you to Mr Sneddon, Ms Cruz, Ms Fahy, Ms Kharitos, and Mr Potter for these fantastic resources, and to all teachers for the refreshed faculty content and look. All of these resources can be accessed on the school's home page <https://jjcahill-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

Sport

The school has been committed to keeping all students safe and healthy in line with the Department of Education's health advice. This has meant that modifications to weekly sport were necessary to adhere to physical distancing and remove any activities that required some form of physical contact.

This has meant that sports played in their usual form like basketball, netball, soccer and touch football have not been able to be played.

However, the school supported modified versions of these games like shooting hoops, and kicking and passing related games. We have set up 3 portable volleyball courts on the oval which has allowed many students to get involved in this highly popular community-minded game.



Nathan Potter,
Careers Adviser, Sports Supervisor

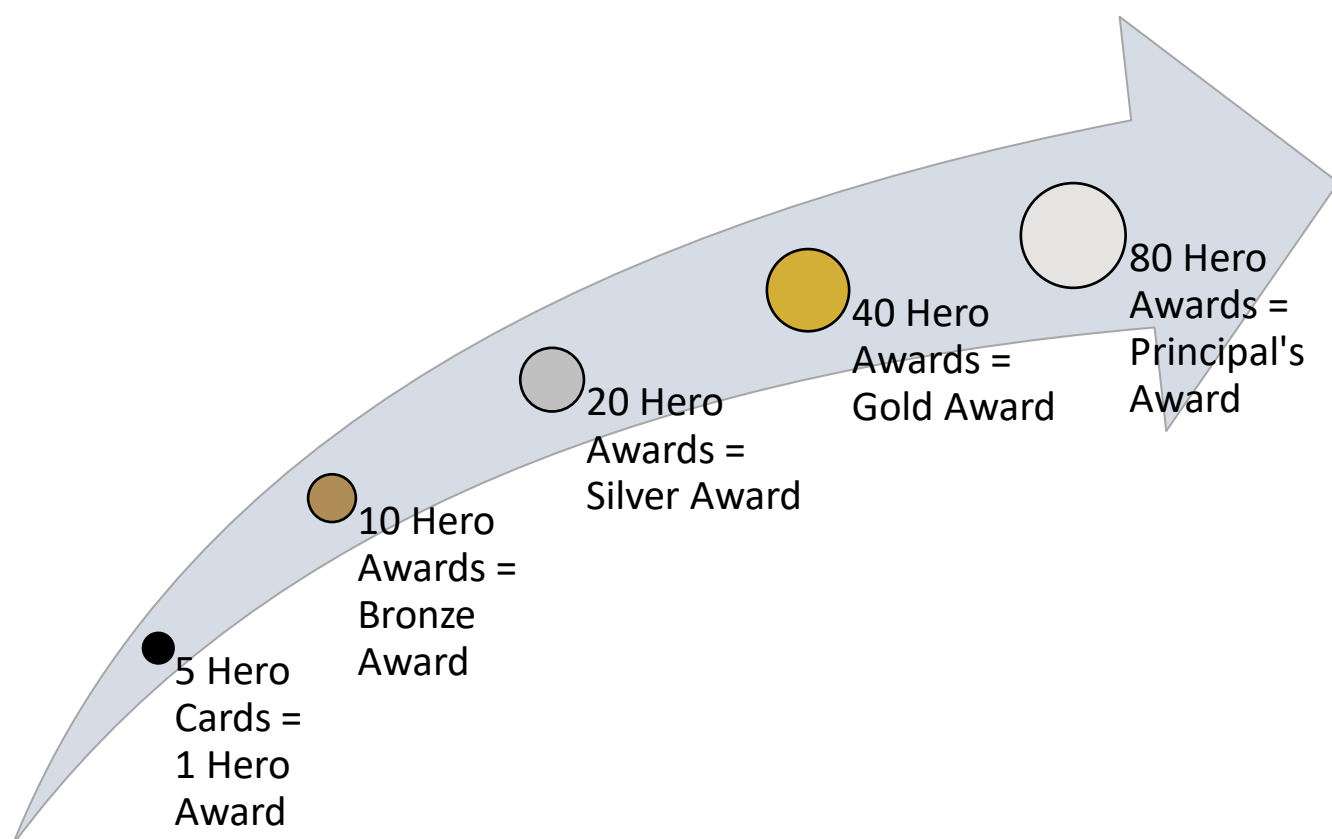
THE NEW AND IMPROVED MERIT SYSTEM AT JJ CAHILL MHS

The PB4L Team has been working hard to continue to improve the merit systems used at JJ Cahill. For the past 18 months, the Hero Card – our fast and frequent award – has been used to recognise students who have shown their commitment to our values; Honour, Excellence, Responsibility and Opportunity. This card represents achievement for our students. Collecting five (5) and handing them into the Year Advisor resulted in a Hero Award. These Hero Awards would tally into Bronze, Silver, Gold and Principal's Awards.

This term, the PB4L team reviewed this merit system and some changes have been made that we want to let the community know about. Collection of **Hero Cards** will still continue and collecting five (5) and handing them to the Year Advisor will allow students to earn one (1) Hero Award. These cards are returned to teachers to use again. Teachers are now able to issue Hero Cards online using Sentral and these will also tally into Hero Awards.

Hero Awards will now be used by Classroom Teachers and Year Advisors to celebrate students' achievements and recognise our values. These are larger (A5) merit certificates that students will hand into their Year Advisors during roll call. These certificates are personalised and will be given back to students to keep in recognition of their achievements. These will be tallied and add up to further certificates; **Bronze, Silver, Gold and Principal's Awards**. Take a look at the merit award scheme below for information about the number of cards and progression to further awards.

Merit Award Scheme

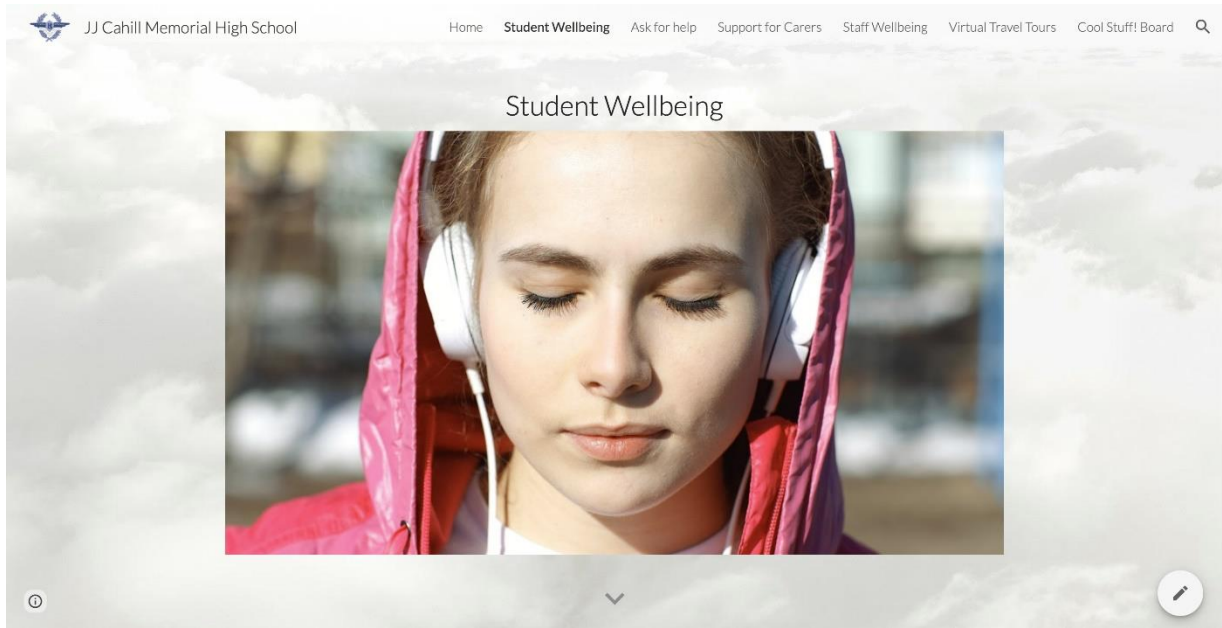


SOME WORDS ABOUT WELLBEING

Explore the new JJ Cahill Wellbeing Hub Website

Welcome to our school's Wellbeing Hub Website. Throughout the Wellbeing Hub, students, carers and staff will find support, suggestions and resources to help promote wellbeing and calm.

Find the Wellbeing Hub through our school website: <https://jjcahill-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/wellbeing-hub.html>



Students will be able to access links to online professional support services, such as Kids Help Line and E-Headspace. They can also complete an online request form if they require support from a member of the wellbeing team such as the school counsellor or their year group adviser.

Carers will find self-care strategies, advice on how to deal with the learning challenges, family support services, inspirational videos and much more. Our staff will find wellbeing videos and self-care tips, links and information about the employee assistance program, and take a proactive approach to wellbeing through the PERMA survey and tools.

But wait, there is more!

In our **Virtual Travel Tours** page, you can find immersive activities and go anywhere in the world without leaving your house.

Explore the **Cool Stuff! Board** for more activities that will keep you in a flow of learning, fun and entertainment.

Have a laugh, be kind and keep on learning.

Wellbeing Check-Ins – It is good to see you back!

Organising and providing regular contact, check-ins or huddles with our students is essential during these challenging times, particularly now that we have returned to face-to-face learning in classroom full time. With

that in mind our school implemented a wellbeing check-in program during week five with the aim of assessing our students' wellbeing and needs.

These sessions provided an opportunity for students to ask questions, assess factual information about being COVID-19 safe and specially to voice their needs, concerns and expectations. It was a successful initiative that our school expects to continue and reinforce in the future by providing an open space for important conversations to happen about students' wellbeing and mental health.

For more wellbeing resources and support please visit our schools' Wellbeing Hub website.

Thank you,
The Wellbeing Team



SOME WORDS FROM YEAR 9 ABOUT ONLINE LEARNING...

Online learning was a big and difficult transition; we are used to face to face lessons, however, due to the outbreak of coronavirus we now had to work from home. This meant that it was harder to communicate with others, harder to learn, and more work. Online learning was a difficult change for all students.

I would wake up at the same time and refer to the timetable about what lesson we had next. The work posted online was on Google Classroom, which was also where we would submit our work. I was getting upset that I wasn't allowed to see my friends... Many students were becoming stressed about how the work was too convoluted for them to learn without asking the teacher questions face-to-face.

During the online learning period I would often wake. put on my school uniform and prepare for school. However, I would abruptly remember that my work was now posted online. All I could think about was how much longer until I will return to school? Will I remember the rules of school? In conclusion online learning has been a dissimilar and frightening change, therefore, I am relieved we have gone back to regular learning. My personal opinion about online learning was that I didn't enjoy it, it made me feel anxious and monotonous.

Noah Miles, Year 9

During the corona season, online schooling was needed, and it had its own advantages and disadvantages. it made some of our lives easier and seemed relatively normal after a few weeks of it. When I was told that we'd be coming back to school again, I wasn't really happy or excited about it. It felt like I was starting all over again and going to school was just not it.

On the first day of school after 10 weeks of quarantine, it felt surreal and crazy to be back with my friends and teachers, whom until then I only saw on zoom or facetime. Going to class with all my classmates and actually learning face-to-face seemed different even though it was our 'normal'. I could no longer sleep in, or wake up any time, I needed to get back to my routine and get organised again.

"The New Normal" - a term used to describe the feelings and changes that we feel after a massive pandemic which killed hundreds of thousands of people. My new normal was school, social distancing, hand sanitizers, making sure we're not too close, stores opening up again. I've been at school for about 4 weeks now, and the cycle of waking up, going to school and going home is starting to feel bearable again. Yes, there is less work to be done at school, stores are reopening, people are starting to go out again, but no, it does not yet feel normal to me.

Daphne Santoso, Year 9

