



16 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As we draw to the end of this challenging term, I want to express my admiration to families for your great support of student learning at home. This has been a significant achievement, often combined with other caring and work responsibilities, as well as concern about the pandemic.

We're so impressed by our incredibly resilient students. As the leaders of their school communities, our Principals have worked hard to keep every child learning. I'm also very appreciative of our teachers' great work.

I know that staff are looking forward to welcoming their students back to school as it becomes safe to do so. With the safety of our community as our highest priority, we will continue to follow the health advice, which includes strong support for vaccinations. We will keep you updated as we move towards the return dates that have been set by the NSW Government.

Our secondary schools are focused on preparing for HSC exams which have been rescheduled for November. The schedule for face-to-face learning for students in Years 7 to 11 will need to be flexible for many schools so that the larger candidature exams can be held under COVID-safe conditions. The return to school plan will also vary for some schools if they are operating under high-level restrictions. Your school will keep you updated on all of this. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

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. I am very grateful for the way that these communities have responded to these difficult situations. If there are further cases as we begin to return to school in Term 4, we are ready to help as needed.

Thank you again and my very best wishes to you and your family for the school holidays. As always, if we can provide your child with any additional support, please reach out to your school.

Yours sincerely

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

**Gregory B Whitby AM KSG FACE FACEL**  
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