Dear Colleagues

Thank you for your patience while the process and timeline for Year 5 students to be selected for opportunity classes in 2021 has been revised and finalised.

As you are aware, the process was delayed as a result of COVID-19.

Online applications will now open on **Tuesday 9 June 2020** and close on **Friday 26 June 2020**.

The 2020 Opportunity Class placement test will take place on **Wednesday 16 September 2020**.

Due to the shorter time frame, changes have been made to the placement process for 2020 applicants. These changes mean that the following components of the placement process WILL NOT take place:

* late applications
* school assessment scores
* illness/misadventure requests or appeals
* selection committees – placement will be determined by results of the placement test, ratified by the Department of Education and principals of schools with OC classes

To support you better, we have prepared some useful fact sheets. These fact sheets outline the key dates and changes you should be aware of to help you inform parents/carers of students who are interested in applying for this opportunity.

You will find the fact sheets at the links below:

* [Fact sheet for principals and schools](https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/65c550e1-bae6-440c-8b2e-ed8c6fe718b3/1/Fact%20sheet%20for%20principals.pdf)
* [Fact sheet for parents/carers and students](https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/a5190613-c171-4597-8fa3-6467227af757/1/Fact%20sheet%20for%20parents.pdf)

You may also wish to include some words in your next school newsletter. For your convenience, a draft paragraph is supplied below.

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| **Changes to the opportunity class placement process for 2020 Year 4 students**The 2021 Year 5 opportunity class placement process was put on hold in April 2020 due to the COVID-19 situation. We now have a revised and simplified timeline for the OC placement process to ensure that students and families can have certainty about their placement as soon as possible.The changes include:* A new date for online applications. Parents must apply between **9 June 2020 and 26 June 2020**. Late applications cannot be accepted.
* A new test date - Wednesday **16 September 2020**.

To ensure fair and consistent assessment of students across New South Wales, students will be offered places based only on their test results this year – there will be no school assessment scores.  There will also be no opportunity for appeals given the tight timeframes.For further detailed information I encourage you to visit (<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5> |

The department will continue to work closely and be guided by the latest advice provided by NSW Health.

Please encourage staff, parents and carers to continue to monitor the department’s website via <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5> to remain up to date with information relating to opportunity classes.

Please keep your eye out for further correspondence from us on Monday which will include application information and your Intention to apply that we ask you to send to all Year 4 parents.

Yours sincerely

Magda Pollak

Leader, High Performing Students Team