

Our local high schools in 2025

Progress update
September 2024



At the beginning of the 2025 school year, Murwillumbah High School and Wollumbin High School will start operating again as two separate schools.

The department and school leadership teams are working through the final stages of preparing for this exciting milestone. This includes completing the construction works that are underway to improve school facilities and implementing the educational and operational transition plan.

As we work through this process and move into Term 4, we will be providing you with regular updates to keep high school students, staff and families informed, to help you prepare for going back to school in 2025.

Two schools, same great learning opportunities

One of the priorities for the return to two separate high schools has been to continue offering students the benefits of a broad choice of elective subjects and special learning programs.

To support this, the schools have established a shared curriculum delivery model, combining in-person teaching, real-time online lessons, and the flexible movement of teachers and students across campuses.

This approach will ensure all students, regardless of where they are enrolled, have equal access to learning opportunities, including:

- a broad range of subject selections and a student driven curriculum
- the Big Picture Learning Program
- specialist learning and facilities for students with additional learning or support needs.

With this model in place Year 11 students who will be completing their HSC next year, can be confident their chosen subjects will continue uninterrupted. Students who will be going into Years 9 and 10 in 2025, will also be able to choose from a wide range of elective subjects.

We will provide more information about the shared curriculum delivery model, including any implications for students, in future updates.



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Introducing your new principals

One of the most significant steps towards reestablishing Murwillumbah High School and Wollumbin High School as separate schools, has been the recent appointment of new principals for the schools.

Bringing the principals on board now is allowing them to play a key role in leading the establishment of a strong and positive culture and student experience across both schools. They will also provide continuity for students, staff and families through the transition process.

Zoe Tiernan, Principal Murwillumbah High School

I am incredibly excited to have been given this leadership role at Murwillumbah High School.

Kelly and I are united in our commitment to providing quality educational experiences and are clearly focused on empowering educators, using evidence-based practice, advocating for student voice and fostering community engagement.

I look forward to improving outcomes and inspiring all students through consultation, respect and collaboration.



Kelly Spilstead, Principal Wollumbin High School

After some time relieving as principal of Mullumbimby High School, I'm excited to be returning to the area as we transition into two schools.

I look forward to collaborating with staff, students, and parents to create a learning community where student engagement and well-being are closely connected, ensuring every student reaches their full potential.

By honouring the past, staying grounded in the present, and working together to shape the future, I'm confident we will establish our two high schools as the schools of choice within our community.



Supporting students and staff

To support students and teachers during the transition back to two separate schools, staffing levels will remain at their current levels until 2027. We are currently advertising for School Administration Managers and are also working through recruitment for a number of executive positions.

To support a smooth transition that prioritises student and staff wellbeing, we will be holding Planning Sessions throughout Term 4, in lieu of the usual School Development Day which is held at the end of Term.

Upgrading Murwillumbah High School

Work to upgrade facilities at Murwillumbah High School is ramping up as we focus on being ready for the school to reopen on Day 1 Term 1 2025.

The department's priority is to make sure there are enough fully refurbished classrooms, specialist learning spaces and other facilities like the hall, library, administration office and school support unit, to accommodate enrolled students and support delivery of the timetable when school resumes at the beginning of 2025.

To make sure the upgrade delivers the best outcome for the long term, work will continue in some areas of the site after school returns.

We will work closely with the Murwillumbah High School principal to make sure the school operates safely and there is no impact to teaching and learning while work is completed. As we get closer to Day 1, more information about how ongoing work will be managed at the site will be provided.

Current works

Two major contracts have been awarded to accelerate work at the site, one for the majority of internal refurbishment and landscaping, and a second for provision of school support class facilities. Works recently completed or underway include:

- new submains, trenching and boring to provide new, upgraded electrical and communication services to all buildings
- structural repairs and remediation where needed
- wall and ceiling framing for new linings
- preparing floors for new floor coverings
- preparing spaces for painting.

Refurbished learning spaces

Classrooms and specialist spaces at Murwillumbah High School will be refurbished to a high standard, featuring all new ceiling and wall linings, floor coverings, paint, lighting, fans and air conditioning, furniture, fittings and equipment.



Example of a refurbished classroom

Upgrading Wollumbin High School

With works at Murwillumbah High School well underway, attention has turned to planning a program of upgrade works to meet the needs of Wollumbin High School and provide improved facilities for students and teachers.

The project, which is being rolled out progressively and will extend into 2025, includes:

- delivering classrooms and facilities for students with additional learning and support needs
- new energy efficient LED lighting throughout the school
- ventilation and cooling upgrades for learning spaces
- removal of temporary buildings and reinstatement of the area where they are located
- re-fencing and re-surfacing of the outdoor sports court
- stormwater drainage improvements
- refresh of student toilets underneath the administration building
- new paint, carpet and general maintenance for some spaces
- a new bus shed
- new goal posts for the football field
- exterior painting where needed.

Current works

A contractor has been engaged to re-fence the sports court and during the upcoming school holiday period they will be onsite to remove the old fence and install a new one. This work will be completed before students return to school and there will be no impact to school operations.

A hydrological assessment has been conducted for the stormwater works and the engineering design is underway.

We are also working with the school to finalise the design for support class facilities.

Enrol for high school 2025

If you haven't already, now is the time to enrol your child in Murwillumbah or Wollumbin High School for 2025. To enrol simply complete and submit an enrolment form at <https://ehub.enrol.education.nsw.gov.au>.

To provide certainty for families that have already submitted an enrolment form, we will be confirming student enrolment details before the end of Term 3 this year.

Contact us

For information about school activities and operations, contact Murwillumbah Learning Community High School:

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For information about school upgrade projects, contact School Infrastructure NSW:

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