



An open letter to the student body of St Edward's

To put things simply, the world is under pressure at the moment. Over the past weeks, the situation within our country regarding the COVID 19 outbreak has taken a toll on Australian students in more ways than one. As young men in 2020, we are often heavily reliant on the guidance of those who have more experience and the media's representation to predict our next move and outline plans for our future. For the past 5 years, Eddies has been a place of routine and constant reassurance for myself, so today I write to all Eddies boys to remind them that our education is greater than what we may think and that during this time, we as a community must strive to follow precautions and safeguards to ensure that when the mess we are experiencing now becomes history, we can rise above the conflict and continue striving for academic excellence.

Whatever situation you may find yourself in, it is important to note that there are others around you that are also struggling with the new measures put into place. It is for this reason that we must look after each other whilst continuing to follow the guidelines established by our leaders of learning and political reinforcement. Have conversations with your friends and family about your thoughts and emotions to ensure you have a clear mind to focus your attention on the things you have control over, such as your health, wellbeing and workload. St Edward's is a supportive network of teachers, students and support staff who will continue to be present throughout the entirety of this process, providing support, access and materials to help students cope with these changing times.

As more information evolves, our level of uncertainty grows with the picture we once saw clearly become clouded by hashtags and fake news. Through maintaining social distancing, staying calm and having respectful conversations with your teachers about alternatives to your learning, you will begin to formulate answers to some of the many questions still lingering. Mr Bonnici is working tirelessly to communicate with parents and students about St Edward's current state, ensuring that every student's safety and wellbeing is looked after. If at any time you begin to feel overwhelmed, our school counselors, Marcus and Terase, are available to provide advice, offer resources or simply listen to your thoughts and will be keeping in contact over email and phone communications throughout this difficult period. After working closely with them for the St Edward's Mental Health Initiative, I believe they are an incredibly valuable asset to our College and highly recommend their services in times of need. Your mental health is important during this time and is not to be pushed aside.

To my fellow Year 12 students, this is not our end, simply another roadblock for us to overcome. The prefects and I are maintaining a united front and communicating regularly to transfer the information we receive to you as often as possible. However, we are limited in our knowledge and can only offer advice at times. As of today, our exam block has been dismissed, but this is no excuse to divert from your studies but to continue building on your knowledge. Seek information from your teachers about work you could be doing and keep your end goal in sight because although school is almost finished for us, we still have much work to do. Stay motivated, stay strong and be supportive for your friends.

To finish, I would like to thank the student body of St Edward's. You have displayed incredible cooperation throughout this time and your support does not go unrecognized. Mr Bonnici will continue to keep families informed regarding the current situation of education and learning at St Edward's, however, be reminded that the 'virtual' doors of the prefects, teachers and support staff will always be open. Use this time to reflect upon where you are in your education journey and





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continue to set goals to strive towards, because with cooperation, communication and regular washing of your hands for at least 20 seconds, Eddies will remain a school community where learning will grow and thrive. Hope is not lost and never will be, so long as we stay together.

May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears – Nelson Mandela

All the best for the future ahead,

Jackson Robb

College Captain



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