



23 March 2020

## PARENT UPDATE REGARDING COVID-19

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 12 Students

As we continue to face the challenges presented to us by COVID-19, it is understandable that our Year 12 boys and their families are experiencing great uncertainty and have several questions in relation to the impact on the HSC. The Federal Government late last evening announced that schools will continue to operate in NSW until the end of the term. Gladys Berejiklian, the New South Wales Premier, in her press conference this morning encouraged families to keep their children at home if they are able to do so. Classes for students in Year 12 will continue to be delivered as a priority, however I understand that many families have chosen to self-isolate and I respect that decision.

We have continued to reassure students that even though there is potential for disruption to their planning, learning, assessment, examinations, major works, VET Work placements and general pattern of study we will continue to support them in dealing with whatever changes may be implemented.

NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) Executive Board are meeting this Tuesday to discuss the impact of potential off-campus delivery on the HSC. NESA has made clear that any disruption to learning caused by COVID-19 will not impact on the end of school outcomes for our students. To date they are indicating that the HSC will continue with adjustments to be made. Where there have been some suggestions put forward of what these adjustments might entail, we will await confirmation from NESA and relay any information to students and families as we are informed. The University Admissions Centre has stated that they will establish processes that will ensure equity for all students applying to University.

The general advice that we are providing students is quite clear. Be diligent in their preparation. Plan to use their time wisely, seeking advice, feedback and support from their class teachers as they are their best resource. If the College is to transition to an online delivery of teaching and learning, they are encouraged to establish clear daily routines to complete work that has been developed, regularly checking in with their teachers to share their learning and clarifying any areas that they may find difficult. Ensure that they maintain a balance between online learning and other important forms of learning, including wide reading on topics from a range of sources, submitting practice responses for feedback, practise multiple choice questions, peer marking and sharing of learning online, using a range of communication mediums. It is also important to ensure that they maintain a balance between schoolwork and relaxation. Over the coming days, more detailed advice will be provided to students and families regarding the College's approach to an online learning environment and teachers will provide specific advice for each subject.

Many students are studying subjects in which a major work, portfolio, individual or group performance, viva-voce or Work Placement are a considerable component of the final assessment and course completion criteria. We are awaiting advice from NESA on these components of study and will ensure that we support students to enable them to meet any change in requirements. We will inform students and families of any changes once notified.

We understand that some students are experiencing heightened levels of anxiety due to the current uncertainty that exists. It is important that parents inform us if they have concerns about their son's well-being. Mr Beattie their Pastoral Leader, Mr English the College Director of Pastoral Care, the College Counsellors, their Home





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Room Teacher, teachers and I are all available to provide any support that might be needed. Please feel assured that we will do everything we can to ensure that we take care of and support our boys during this difficult time.

I can report that there are no reported cases of COVID-19 in the College community and I pray that this remains so as we all maintain our practices of personal hygiene and social distancing. Do not hesitate to contact me on 4321 6400, or via email at [principal@stedwards.nsw.edu.au](mailto:principal@stedwards.nsw.edu.au) if you have any questions or would like to discuss the information outlined in this letter.

Your sincerely

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