



3 April 2020

STUDENT UPDATE

PUPIL FREE DAYS - APRIL 7 - APRIL 9

Dear Students

The College has made the decision to conduct **Pupil Free Days form Tuesday April 7 to Thursday April 9**. This decision was made in anticipation that we will commence Term 2 with an off-campus delivery of teaching and learning that is likely to be for an extended period of time. Throughout those three days, teachers will be provided with much needed planning time to develop teaching resources, administrative processes and participate in ongoing professional learning in preparation for the commencement of Term 2. This final stage is critical in facilitating the effective transition to a complete online delivery of teaching and learning for an extended period. Students will not be required to participate in class work online throughout these three days. Senior students will be required to complete all assessments that were due throughout this week and your teachers will be available to provide feedback via normal communication mediums, but not necessarily during the scheduled lesson. We also encourage senior students to use this time wisely in consolidating their learning through the establishment of a revision program.

We have been trialling an online delivery of teaching and learning for just over a week and it is very pleasing to see how the vast majority of boys have engaged and responded in a positive way. The feedback that we have received from students, parents and teachers has been invaluable. As anticipated, the new approach to learning has provided challenges for some students.

The feedback has indicated that boys have been challenged by the need to focus on six different subjects each day, all with separate instructions, varying levels of work requirements and a reduced opportunity to engage with their teachers. On Monday April 6 and continuing into next term, we will transition into an altered timetable which is structured around three double periods, rather than six single periods, four days of the week. Double periods will allow more time for teachers to engage with you, provide feedback on your learning as well as reduce the stress you may be experiencing at times in having to focus on six different lessons in one day. On Wednesday, the timetable will consist of three periods with no lessons scheduled in the afternoon. This free time is designed to break up the week and allow you to have some free time, away from your screens, in the hope that you will engage in activities that will promote both physical and mental well-being. Senior students however are encouraged to use this time to devote to the completion of assessment tasks, additional reading and research. Teachers will meet on Wednesday afternoons to evaluate and collaborate on future learning activities and therefore will not be available online for feedback. This new timetable will be available on the student portal on Monday.

A range of strategies have also been developed to support teachers in monitoring your engagement with your online learning and protocols established to provide you with feedback and report to your parents if concerns arise. We encourage all students to focus on developing greater independence and responsibility for your learning and urge you to continue to seek regular feedback from your teachers.

Your sincerely

Mark Bonnici
College Principal

