



July 2021

UPDATED HOME-BASED LEARNING PLAN COMMENCING MONDAY JULY 19

Dear Parents and Carers

Based on the advice received from Catholic Schools NSW, the NSW Government Health Department and EREA, the following plan has been developed for the ongoing implementation of Home-Based Learning. As uncertainty still exists as to the length of time we will be delivering Home-Based Learning, we have developed a plan which is sustainable for a longer period.

1. The protocols established for the delivery of lessons via Microsoft Teams will remain and teachers will be available for 50-minutes of each one-hour lesson to allow teachers and students 10 minutes to prepare for their next lesson.
2. Throughout this first week, we have identified that many students, particularly in the junior years, are experiencing difficulty in engaging in five different lessons each day. We are also attempting to balance the concerns we have about the wellbeing of students and staff when required to participate in online learning for five hours a day for the whole week with the senior students being provided with adequate time to work on each of their courses in the lead up to the Trial HSC examinations for Year 12 and the completion of the Preliminary Course for Year 11. As we now have senior students studying courses across campus with St Joseph's College, we have also worked with St Joseph's to minimise the disruption to these courses.
3. Based on this information we have made the following changes to the timetable:
 - Year 11 and 12 students will continue with their normal five one-hour period timetable from Monday to Thursday.
 - Students in Years 7-10 will participate in four one-hour periods from Monday to Thursday with no lessons being scheduled for period 3 on these days for the next two weeks. Students will be encouraged to use this time responsibly as a study period to catch up on any work not completed as well as have some screen free time.
 - If we are to continue Home-Based Learning beyond the next two weeks this period will change.
 - Friday will consist of three one-hour periods for Year 7-12, with no classes scheduled for the afternoon for all year groups to allow some screen free time.
 - Senior students will be encouraged to use this time in revision style activities away from their screens.

Teaching staff will be participating in faculty-based meetings during this time on Friday afternoon to evaluate the past week and plan for the week ahead.



Amended timetables will appear on the student portal to reflect the following.

Monday - Thursday	
Period 1	9.00am-10.00am
Period 2	10.00am- 11.00am
Recess	11.00am – 11.20am
Period 3	11.20am-12.20pm (No classes for Years 7-10)
Period 4	12.20pm-1.20pm
Lunch	1.20pm – 2.00pm
Period 5	2.00pm- 3.00pm

Friday	
Period 1	9.00am-10.00am
Period 2	10.00am- 11.00am
Recess	11.00am – 11.30am
Period 3	11.30am-12.30pm
No Classes scheduled	

- During Weeks 2 and 3, senior students who are studying subjects that require major works (Industrial Technology Wood and Multi -Media, Visual Arts, Drama and Music) will be provided with an option of attending practical lessons on Friday for the whole day. Students who take up this option will not attend their normal classes during periods 1-3 to allow them time to complete their major works. This opportunity is very important to relieve the stress that is currently being experienced by these students in relation to the completion of their major work. It will be the responsibility of these students to complete any work that is undertaken during lessons missed.
- Teachers will continue to mark the roll throughout each lesson. Parents will be notified via email if concerns arise regarding their son's attendance and engagement in online lessons.
- Students are encouraged to use their time to ask any questions regarding their work during the allocated lesson. Teachers will not be available to respond to emails outside the hours of 8.30am and 3.30pm.
- Teachers are planning work for lessons that generally does not require the use of a textbooks. In many subjects the textbooks have been provided online. Students who believe that they would benefit from having their textbook at home will be able to collect them from their lockers on Friday July 16 between the hours of 1.00pm and 4.00pm. Students are to arrive at school through the front entrance of the College on Russell Drysdale Street. Students must be wearing a mask when they arrive on site and parents are not permitted to enter the campus.



8. If students experience technical difficulties, they can contact our Information Services department at: helpdesk@stedwards.nsw.edu.au or by phone on 4321 6444 between 9am – 3pm.
9. If the occupation of parents is in the essential services or if a parent has returned to work and a student cannot work from home, supervision will be provided at the College on Monday to Thursday for 8.00am until 3.00pm and on Friday from 8.00am until 12.30pm. Students attending school will engage in parallel learning, following the same lesson structure and online learning activities as students working at home. It is **mandatory for all staff and students** who attend school, to wear a mask at all times while at school and travelling to and from school. Students are required to bring their own mask.
10. Parents are not permitted to attend the College Campus throughout the next two weeks. College staff will be answering calls on 4321 6400 throughout each day between the hours of 8.30am and 3.30pm to answer any questions or refer queries on to the appropriate member of staff. Parents are also able to email info@stedwards.nsw.edu.au. Please be patient as we will endeavour to respond to questions as quickly as possible.

I thank families for your ongoing patience and support. I will continue to provide updates based on the advice received from Catholic Schools NSW and NSW Government Health Department. Please feel assured that the ongoing safety of staff and students is paramount in any decisions or planning in response to COVID-19.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on 4321 6400, or at principal@stedwards.nsw.edu.au if you have any questions or would like to discuss the information outlined in this letter.

Yours sincerely

Mark Bonnici
College Principal