



7 September 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students in Years 7-10

In alignment with the NSW Government health orders, Home-Based Learning will continue into Term 4 with the reintegration of students commencing on October 25, beginning with Year 12 followed by Year 11 on November 1 and the remaining years on November 8. This staggered return will be accompanied by level three restrictions which will potentially mean that not all students will be permitted to be on site at one time and be combined with a range of health and safety protocols. I will continue to monitor this advice, develop a plan for the safe return of staff and students and until then we will continue to follow our plan of Home-Based Learning.

I am aware that this delay will raise many questions and concerns for families about the impact on student learning and the health and safety of students on return. The following information is designed to explain the College's approach to assist students, parents and carers in gaining some clarity around student learning and engagement in the Home-Based Learning process as well as the blueprint for remainder of Term 3 and the commencement of Term 4.

The final day of online classes for Term 3 will be Thursday September 16 as outlined on the College calendar, with online learning recommencing on Wednesday October 6. As it is now evident that Home-Based Learning will be continuing for a substantial length of time, we believe that it is important that we take the necessary time to support students with their learning in a manner which promotes their confidence and engagement in the learning process.

Feedback Regarding Student Learning

Teachers have developed a range of ways in which to assess student learning throughout the experience of Home-Based Learning which are not necessarily the traditional forms of assessment. Teachers have been providing regular feedback to students about their learning and their submitted tasks throughout the term via our online management system, Canvas.

Due to the very different nature of the learning experience this term, we do not believe that the traditional Interim Report that students in Years 7-10 receive at the end of Term 3, adequately provides students and parents with feedback aligned to this experience. We have developed a process to provide parents with feedback regarding their child's learning which involves students completing a written reflection on their learning followed by the online Student-Led Learning Conferences at the commencement of Term 4. This process is outlined below.

1. During Weeks 9 and 10, students in Years 7-10 will complete a guided Learning Reflection on their experience of Home-Based Learning. This process is designed to provide students with an opportunity to reflect on what they have learnt about themselves as a learner, what they have found challenging, what they are proud of, what they have enjoyed and done well and a comment on each subject. Parents will be provided with an electronic copy of this reflection prior to the Learning Conferences in Term 4.





2. Term 4 will commence with a Staff Development Day on Tuesday October 5. On this day staff will be finalising plans for the recommencement of Home-Based Learning and carefully analysing student reflections in preparation for the Learning Conferences which will take place on Wednesday October 6 and Thursday October 7.
3. Students will commence online learning on Wednesday October 6 and continue Thursday October 7 in an asynchronous mode. Students will be provided with work on the College Portal to complete independently on these two days to allow teachers, students and families time to participate in online Learning Conferences throughout the day. Parents and carers will be provided with access to the work that students will be required to complete over these two days.
4. Wednesday October 6 will commence with a compulsory online Year meeting for all year groups, where Pastoral Leaders will welcome students to the start of the term and outline the expectations regarding working independently over the next two days and for the remainder of Home-Based Learning.
5. Learning Conferences have been scheduled over two days based on the feedback from parents and carers after previous Learning Conferences to ensure that more families are provided with the opportunity to participate.
6. On Friday October 8, teachers will recommence meeting with students at the start of each lesson as per our current delivery of Home-Based Learning.
7. Parents will be provided with details regarding the online booking system for the Learning Conferences on Monday September 13.

[Parent Feedback and Term 4 Online Information Webinar: Tuesday October 5 – 6.30pm](#)

We are very conscious that parents and carers will have many questions and concerns regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their child's learning, their wellbeing and the reintegration health and safety protocols. We have developed a survey for families to provide the College with feedback about Home-Based Learning to inform our continued approach as well as ask questions which will be answered at an Online Information Session on Tuesday October 5, at 6.30pm. This survey can be accessed via the following link [Home-Based Learning Survey](#).

St Edward's staff will analyse the feedback and questions and provide responses at the Information Webinar. This approach will allow us to respond in a more timely and conclusive manner on the night. Parents will also be able to ask questions via the chat function in Microsoft Teams throughout the meeting. We ask families to respond to this





survey and provide any questions by Thursday September 16. Details and a link to join the webinar will be emailed to families on the morning of Tuesday October 5.

We are aware that our students and their families have been challenged greatly by the current COVID-19 circumstances. We are very proud of the way in which our students have responded and engaged in Home-Based Learning throughout this extended period. Our College Aspiration Statement challenges us as a learning community to inspire our boys to be curious, respectful and autonomous learners who demonstrate resilience, discipline and perseverance on their learning journey in an environment which fosters positive relationships and focuses on the wellbeing of staff and students. I am very confident that despite the challenges that we have been faced with again this year, that our students will have continued to develop these learning skills and return with a sense of pride in their achievements, feeling supported by their families and teachers who are working tirelessly to provide the best possible learning experiences that nurtures and inspires them to achieve their personal best.

I thank you once again for your support throughout this term, and I look forward to meeting with you online on Tuesday October 5. 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

