



7 September 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Year 11 Students

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, 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 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.

Year 11 students will complete their Preliminary Assessments on Thursday September 16 which is the final day of the term 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 and provides clear advice regarding the HSC year.

Feedback Regarding Student Learning

Year 11 students will commence their HSC Courses in each of their subjects at the commencement of Term 4. We have established a range of processes which are outlined below, to provide students with advice regarding their progress. It is important that students engage in each of these processes before making decisions regarding their HSC pattern of study.

Learning Conferences

1. 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 performance in the Preliminary Course in preparation for the Student Led Learning Conferences which will take place on Wednesday October 6 and Thursday October 7.
2. Students will commence online learning on Wednesday October 6 and continue Thursday October 7 in an asynchronous mode. Students will be provided with introductory HSC learning activities on the College Portal to complete independently on these two days, to allow teachers, students and families time to participate in online Student Led Learning Conferences throughout the day. Parents will be provided with access to the work that students will be required to complete over these two days.





3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Parents will be provided with details regarding the online booking system for the Student Led Learning Conferences on Monday September 13.

HSC Information Webinar

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 preparation for the HSC year, their wellbeing, the reintegration timeline and accompanying 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 Thursday October 7, at 6.30pm. This survey can be accessed via the following link [Home-Based Learning Survey](#). We ask families to respond to this survey by Thursday September 16. Details and a link to join the webinar will be emailed to families on the morning of Wednesday October 6.

St Edward's staff will analyse these questions and provide responses on the evening as well important information about the HSC year and reintegration plan. 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.

Preliminary Report

Students will receive a Preliminary Report in week three of Term 4. This report will provide information in the form of an assessment mark and rank based on the assessments currently being completed, a final assessment mark and rank, which includes all assessment completed in the Preliminary Year, an indication of achievement of course outcomes and a teacher comment for each course. This report provides critical feedback to assist in the decision-making process for the HSC year.

Gaining individual advice about HSC pattern of study

Year 11 students will be making important decisions regarding their pattern of study for the HSC year. While individual class teachers can provide feedback regarding performance in a course, it is important that students make decisions based on their overall pattern of study, taking into consideration a range of factors such as performance in the preliminary year, assessment type, enjoyment in courses and future pathways.





Specific advice for each student while making these decisions can be provided by Mrs Carolina Murdoch, Director of Teaching and Learning, Mr Gerry Summerhayes, Director of Curriculum and for University Pathways, VET and Careers advice Mrs Juliana Dignam, Leader of Careers and VET. Students, parents and carers will be able to make appointments to meet with these teachers during the Student Led Learning Conferences. If meeting times are not available during the conferences or if parents and carers are unable to attend these meetings, students are encouraged to email any of these teachers who will organise a time to meet.

The processes outlined above are designed to provide students and families with detailed information regarding their child's progress in each of their Preliminary HSC courses. Students are strongly advised to reflect deeply on the information provided when making decisions about their pattern of study and planning to achieve their best in the HSC.

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 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 students to be curious, respectful and autonomous learners who demonstrate resilience, discipline and perseverance on their learning journey in an environment which fosters positive relationships, focusing on the wellbeing of students and staff. I am very confident that despite the challenges that we have been faced with again this year, 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 nurture and inspire them to achieve their personal best and prepare them for their HSC year.

I thank you once again for your support throughout this term and I look forward to meeting with you online on Thursday October 7. 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

