



7 September 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Year 12 Students

In alignment with the NSW Government health orders, Home Based Learning will continue into Term 4 with the reintegration of students, beginning with Year 12 on October 25, 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 will 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.

The HSC Examinations have been rescheduled to commence on Tuesday November 9. HSC results and student ATARs will be released in mid-January with university offers to follow. I am aware that this delay will raise many questions and concerns for students and families about the impact on student learning, supporting students in maintaining motivation in preparation for the HSC examinations, the reintegration timeline and accompanying health and safety protocols. The following information is designed to explain the College's approach to assisting students, parents and carers with a blueprint for the remainder of Term 3, the commencement of Term 4 and how we plan to support students in achieving their best possible results in the final examinations.

Year 12 students will complete their HSC Assessments on the Tuesday September 7. In consultation with students, we have decided to suspend online classes for the remainder of this week to allow them time to take a break from studying and will recommence Home Based Learning on Monday September 13 until Thursday September 16, which is the final day of the term as outlined on the College Calendar. Online learning will recommence in Term 4 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 prepares them well for the HSC examinations.

It is very understandable that the ongoing changes to the timetable of HSC assessments and final examinations, combined with the sense of loss that students may be feeling in relation to their final year of school, ongoing disruption to their study preparations, questions about end of year celebrations and enjoying their final weeks of high school with their friends, may be mentally tiring and a cause of frustration, which is impacting on preparation and maintaining motivation to succeed in the final examinations.

I therefore strongly encourage all Year 12 students to take time over the upcoming holiday period to get away from their screens and enjoy the holiday break as best they can. Take time to freshen up for next term, revise if they choose but there is still plenty of time when we return in Term 4 for revision and preparation.

We have established a range of processes which are outlined below, to provide students with advice and individual feedback to help them prepare for their examinations and explain what the reintegration to face-to-face learning will look like from October 25 up to the commencement of the examinations. These processes are outlined below.





Student Led 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 Trial HSC Assessment 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 HSC revision activities 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 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. Student Led 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.

Trial HSC Report

Students will receive their Trial HSC Report at the end of Week 2 next term. This report will include the student's mark and rank in the Trial HSC assessment task that they've just completed and their final overall assessment rank, an indication of level of achievement of course outcomes and a teacher's comment in each course. NESA does not permit schools to provide students with their final overall assessment mark. Teachers will continue to work with students in a carefully planned revision program initially online and then face-to face from October 25 up to the week before the commencement of the exams on November 9.

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 examinations, their wellbeing, the reintegration timeline and 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 19,





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 Monday October 18.

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

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. We are particularly proud of the resilience demonstrated by students in Year 12. Mr McCauley has established a survey to seek feedback from Year 12 students about Home -Based Learning in the lead up to the HSC Examinations and he will email this link to all Year 12 in the coming days.

At the commencement of next term, we will provide further advice regarding the farewell ceremonies planned for Year 12, including the Graduation Liturgy, Awards Ceremony and Formal. The format of each of these events will be guided by the health orders that exist at the time.

I thank you once again for your support throughout this term, we will continue to respond to the NSW Government Health advice in developing our plans and I will endeavour to keep you informed in a timely manner. I look forward to meeting with you online on Tuesday October 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

