



29 July 2021

HSC UPDATE

Dear Parents, Carers and Year 12 Students

I am aware that the current COVID-19 environment may be causing some stress amongst our boys and families regarding the HSC and I hope that the information below begins to provide some clarity regarding the remainder of the term and the finalisation of the HSC. The following information is specifically related to the Trial HSC Examinations and is based on the most recent advice from the NSW Government, NESA and Catholic Schools NSW.

1. The Trial HSC Examinations have been rescheduled to commence on Wednesday August 18 to Wednesday September 1. It was agreed at a Catholic Schools NSW meeting on Wednesday evening, that the majority of Catholic Schools within the state will be following the same timetable and examinations.
2. Students will continue with Home-Based Learning up to and including Monday August 16 and Tuesday August 17, where teachers will complete the final preparations and revision for these examinations.
3. Students will be issued with an examination timetable next week with further advice regarding the administration and health protocols established to ensure the safety of students and staff throughout the examinations.
4. We encourage students to continue to work closely with their teachers in preparation for these examinations, as they are an important component of the final assessment mark and excellent preparation for the HSC examinations next term.
5. Due to the increasing number of exposure sites on the Central Coast and the potential risk of infection, the HSC Practical classes in the subjects of Industrial Technology, Drama, Music and Visual Arts scheduled for this Friday have been cancelled. Students are required to attend their normal periods 1-3 on this day.
6. As outlined in the previous correspondence to Year 12 students and their families, an extended timeframe for completion of major works and performance examinations has been established by NESA to allow students more time to complete these works and prepare for performance examinations. We will continue to monitor the health advice in determining when we are able to recommence practical classes to facilitate the completion of major works and prepare for performance examinations.
7. An invitation will be extended to parents and students to attend an online HSC Information/Q&A session on Monday August 9 at 6.30pm to answer any questions you may have.
8. I will provide further advice on the return to face-to-face teaching after the trial examinations in the coming weeks.
9. Students who have not completed their reference application forms, which were due at the end of Term 2, must do so as soon as possible if they wish to have it included in their portfolio at the end of year celebrations.
10. As we receive further advice from NSW Government Health and Catholic Schools NSW, we will finalise plans for our Graduation Mass and End of Year Awards ceremony and share this with students and families.





11. Importantly during this stressful time, students are reminded of the importance of taking care of their own wellbeing. Mr McCauley, the College Counsellors, your teachers, family and friends are all on-hand to support you if you begin to feel anxious. Talking openly and honestly about what you are experiencing and seeking advice can be very helpful in dealing with any stress that the HSC may cause.

Please do not hesitate to contact me 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

