



26 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 12 Students

As we approach the end of your son's time at St Edward's College, I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate and thank the Year 12 cohort on their resilience, cooperation, and commitment throughout what has been a very difficult year. It has been so pleasing to have them back with us in these last few weeks and I truly hope they enjoy their final days at St Edward's and wish them all the very best in the HSC examinations.

With the HSC Examinations commencing on Tuesday November 9, I wish to provide you with information regarding important forthcoming events. It would be advisable to note these dates in the family diary/calendar:

- **Monday November 1 to Friday November 5**- HSC Study Week Teachers will be available online during the normal scheduled lesson to provide support in the last week before examinations.
- **Tuesday November 9** – HSC Examinations commence
- **Friday December 3** – Graduation Liturgy and Academic Assembly. We have rescheduled the Graduation Liturgy and Awards ceremony to better align with student plans at the end of the year. This event will be held in the ERC and will commence in the late afternoon/evening. We have received recent health advice from Catholic Schools NSW in relation to these ceremonies and are very pleased to announce that parents who are fully vaccinated will be permitted to attend. We look forward to celebrating this important milestone in the lives of our students with their families. More details will be provided to families in the lead up to these events.
- **Tuesday December 7** – Year 12 Formal at Crowne Plaza at Terrigal. Catholic Schools NSW recently announced the guidelines for schools in relation to Formals. This event will be for students and their partners only in order to comply with the current physical distancing regulations. As per the health advice, we have been advised that partners will be required to be fully vaccinated and present evidence upon sign in. Students were recently sent a Microsoft online survey to RSVP for the event and order tickets. We ask if you could please remind your son to complete this survey by **Monday 1 November**. Please contact Meagan Armstrong on 43216403 or via email marmstrong@stedwards.nsw.edu.au if your son requires the survey link again. Once tickets have been ordered via this survey, payment can be made at the student reception or over the phone.

Many of these events have evolved in the school calendar to mark in a significant and acceptable way, the transition of young people into adulthood. This Year 12 group has been co-operative throughout their time at St Edward's and we are all hoping that this attitude continues as we approach the important final chapter in their secondary education. The Year 12 Pastoral Leader, Mr Eamon McCauley has emphasised the two key themes of support and respect - support for each other, for their families, and for the College and likewise respect for each other, their parents, their teachers and all they meet. If they can embody these attitudes in all they do, then we





can be sure they will be happy, safe and achieve their personal goals. Today however, I wish to share with you some thoughts in relation to a successful and happy period of closure for the year

1. We encourage all Year 12's to approach the HSC exam period with a positive attitude. Students are still students of St Edward's whilst they are undertaking exams and as such are expected to comply with the usual standards of personal grooming. In a true spirit of co-operation, I believe students can create and engender a positive atmosphere within the exam room by being faithful to the following requirements of the College for the duration of the HSC exams:

- Arriving punctually for all exams and being attired in the complete summer uniform, especially and including correct school shoes, and respecting school regulations regarding haircuts, jewellery, being clean shaven etc. In previous years some seem to think they are exempt from these requirements for the duration of the HSC exams.
- Following the clear COVID-19 Examination protocols that have been established.
- Remaining in the exam room for the full duration of each exam. From my experience, it is most unsettling for candidates to have other students leaving the exam room before the allocated time expires.
- To arrive and leave from the school premises promptly, quietly with due respect to the needs of other students in the school environment. The COVID-19 examination protocols do not allow students to congregate outside the examination room and they will be required to leave the College upon the completion of each examination.
- Students who have a morning and afternoon examination scheduled on the same day will be required to remain at school in the down time between the two examinations.

2. **End of Year Behaviour** – This time can become for some, the “silly season”, when students think completion of school is an excuse for various forms of anti-social behaviour. The excellent standing and reputation of St Edward's within the community is paramount and consequently any misbehaviour that brings discredit upon the school or family would require appropriate disciplinary action. Students need to be reminded that one “brain explosion” can have very unpleasant consequences for many people. There is an excellent tradition within St Edward's of Year 12 students acting responsibly. I have every confidence that the HSC Class of 2021 will maintain this tradition.

It must be made perfectly clear that we will not tolerate acts of vandalism, disrespectful behaviour or violence by young people, either within or outside the school, nor can they expect to be exempted from the law on the basis of their status as students. If students indulge in such anti-school, anti-community activities, there will be clear consequences. These may involve the withholding of school documents such as references and reports or requiring students to find another school in which to sit for their examinations.





Use of Cars –Students are also reminded of the COVID-19 protocol preventing students from being able to carpool on the days of examinations.

I trust that parents will accept the concerns I have expressed in this letter in the spirit in which they are offered. I am hoping we can work together to ensure students progress with dignity and pride through the final stages of their school careers. Do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss any issues that have been raised in this letter.

I would like to wish all Year 12 students the very best of luck in their final examinations. We are very proud of their achievements and wish them the very best for whatever their future holds.

Yours sincerely

Mr Mark Bonnici
College Principal

