



28 June 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

As Semester One ends, I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate and thank our staff and students for their dedication and contribution to our wonderful community. The COVID -19 pandemic has presented us with new challenges this year and the flexibility, co-operation and perseverance of our staff and students has been commendable. Even though we have been faced with large numbers of absences from both staff and students, we have continued to challenge students to be the best they can be in all endeavours.

Students in Years 7-10 will be provided with feedback regarding their learning through two different yet aligned processes through this last week. Students in Years 7-10 will receive their Semester One Report and students in Year 7-11 have been invited to participate in Learning Conferences on either Thursday evening or Friday during the day.

Reports

The Semester One Report provides students with specific feedback in each of their courses. The report contains a grade from A-E, an indication of their level of achievement in relation to the learning outcomes for each course as well as their application and effort according to the Code for Learning. Importantly teachers will provide a comment, which is designed to affirm their progress and offer recommendations for ongoing improvement. Reports will be uploaded to the Portal on Thursday morning and students are encouraged to read and discuss these reports with their parents prior to attending the Learning Conferences.

The next report that students in Year 11 will receive is their Preliminary Report at the end of Term Three. The Learning Conferences scheduled for the end of this week are therefore an important means of feedback for Year 11 students as they work towards completing these courses and prepare to commence the HSC in Term Four.

Learning Conferences

An important goal of the College Aspiration Statement is to encourage our students to develop greater responsibility and autonomy with their learning. We assist them in developing goals associated with their learning and provide feedback on how to continue to improve. Learning Conferences are designed to foster these reflective skills in our students. Students will be asked to lead the conversation at these meetings, discussing ideas such as what they have learnt in each course, what they have enjoyed or found challenging, what they have learnt about themselves as learners and areas they may need to focus on to bring about further



improvement. We have been very pleased with how the students have responded to this process over the last two years and believe it provides a wonderful opportunity for them to reflect on their learning.

Over the years we have attempted to organise our learning meetings based on the feedback that we receive from parents. Each year we have called for feedback and attempted to respond to this feedback in how the meetings are structured. We do understand that with over eight hundred and fifty families in our community we will not always be able to develop a process that meets the needs of every family.

We will ask families to provide us with feedback regarding Learning Conferences on two occasions this year. In this first round we are trialling online and face-to-face meetings with an evening session and for the first time a daytime session. It is important that students participate in these learning conferences whether they are online or face-to-face as this is a vital component of the process, and we ask those students attending face-to-face learning conferences on Friday wear their **winter school uniform**. Parents will be emailed a link to a survey on Friday to provide feedback on this first round of conferences and then again in term four after our final round of conferences. We will analyse this important information to assist in planning for next year.

Dates for end of Term Two and commencement of Term Three:

Thursday June 30: Online Learning Conferences via Microsoft Teams 3.30pm-7.30pm

Friday July 1: Pupil Free Day for all students
Face-to Face Learning Conferences at St Edward's Years 7-11.
Students attending with parents are asked to wear school uniform

Monday 18 July: Pupil Free day – EREA Regional Teacher Networking Day

Tuesday 19th July: First day of Term 3 for Years 7-12

Academic Assemblies Wednesday July 20

On Wednesday July 20 we will take time to acknowledge the academic success and effort of students. Two assemblies have been scheduled for this day so that we can celebrate the wonderful work of our students in semester one. An awards ceremony for Years 7-9 will be held in the morning followed by a second ceremony in the middle of the day for Year 10-12. Parents of students receiving awards for academic achievement and consistent effort will be invited to attend these ceremonies in support of their sons.



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As indicated in an earlier edition of our College Newsletter Touchstones, I will be taking Professional Renewal Leave throughout Term Three of this year. Mr Cameron Alexander, currently the Deputy Principal of Christian Brothers College Adelaide will take up the role of Acting Principal in my absence. Mr Alexander visited St Edward's earlier this term and is very much looking forward to the experience. Mr Alexander is an experienced educator and leader and will provide great support to staff, students and families throughout his time in our community.

I would like to thank all parents and carers for your continued support of the work that we do with our students and I wish our students a very safe and happy mid-year break.

Yours sincerely

Mark Bonnici
College Principal