



Dear Parents, Carers and Students in Year 12

We are rapidly approaching the final stages of your son's secondary education with the completion of Year 12 at St Edward's College and the HSC in October. For this reason, I wish to ask for your support and co-operation regarding some forthcoming events. It would be advisable to note these key dates in the family diary/calendar:

1. **Wednesday 21 September:** This is the last formal day for the 2022 HSC Class. Teachers will need all boys to be present on that day. Boys will be advised by Mr Powell as to what the outline of the day will be.
2. **Wednesday 21 September evening:** – **Final Year 12 Farewell Mass to be celebrated at 7.00pm in the ERC.** We would love to see all parents in attendance at this significant occasion in your son's education. This promises to be a spiritual highlight of the year as it has been in recent years. Boys will need to be in full winter school uniform including tie and the formal College blazer (not the Year 12 souvenir pullover). **Parents** – for confirmation of numbers, [please reserve your free tickets to the Mass here](#) by Wednesday 14 September.
3. **Thursday 22 September – BBQ Breakfast & Year 12 Graduation Award Presentation and Farewell Assembly:** BBQ will be available for Year 12 students from 7.30am on the concourse. The Graduation Ceremony will be held in the ERC at 9am. All parents are invited to attend this assembly. Students who are receiving an award will be officially notified. Boys are required to be in full winter school uniform, paying close attention to personal grooming. Once again, for this formal assembly, boys will be required to wear the formal College blazer (not the Year 12 souvenir pullover). After the assembly, there will be a traditional tree planting ceremony conducted by the students, at which stage the year 12 students are dismissed. Respectfully we ask that all boys leave College grounds at this stage so as not to disrupt the continuity of the Year 7 – 11 classes which will be continuing. **Parents** – for confirmation of numbers [please reserve your free ticket to the Assembly here](#) by Wednesday 14 September.
4. **Wednesday 12 October –HSC Exams commence** for St Edward's students in the ERC (timetable available on [College website under Curriculum/Learning tab](#)).
5. **Friday 4 November - Last HSC Exam** for St Edward's students
6. **Monday 7 November: Return of College resources** - Year 12 students under the Laptop Rental Agreement program are required to return their laptops this week. Further details will be confirmed in a letter to each family. **Textbooks** are also expected to be returned after students have finished their last exam, otherwise families will be charged for outstanding items.
7. **Tuesday 8 November – Year 12 Formal** – Grand Ballroom, Crowne Plaza Terrigal for students and their partners if they wish to take one. Tickets available online [via this link](#). Ticket sales will close on 21 October.
8. **Thursday 15 December** – Release of HSC results

Many of these events have evolved in the school calendar to mark in a significant acceptable way the transition of these young men into adulthood. In the words of Boys' Education expert, Ian Lillico, these events/ceremonies have become meaningful rites of passage for our young men and help them begin the transition to life beyond school. As such we expect that the boys will enter these significant milestone events in a manner that shows respect for the College, their peers and themselves.





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 Alex Powell has emphasised with this group of young men 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 issues in relation to a successful and happy period of closure for the year.

1. **Use of Cars** – We attempt to control the use of motor vehicles by Year 12's. Boys have agreed to certain guidelines in seeking permission to drive to school. I ask that parents remind their sons of the privilege of driving and of the risks involved in reckless behaviour behind the wheel of a motor vehicle. Because of very restricted parking facilities on the College grounds, unfortunately it is not possible for any students to bring vehicles on to the College property, at any time and this includes during examination period.

2. **Study Habits** – We all know that there is life after the HSC and it is not the “be all and end all” of everything. However, I would like to think that all of our Year 12's will enjoy the satisfaction of “passing” this first real test in adult life. By “passing” I really mean achieving an outcome consistent with their true ability. Much can still be done in the way of study and preparation for their final exams. There are many resources available from the school to assist with systemic revision. If they are unable to chart a study program of their own then I would be very willing to assist them. There is still time. Much can still be done in the weeks ahead and in the Term 3 holiday period.

3. The value of school assessments depends on the performance in the final exams of the whole College candidature in each course. When everyone does their best, all St Edward's students benefit. Of course, the converse is also true. Boys not making an effort can drag down the value of classmates' assessments. I am really asking for one last big effort from all of Year 12 as we start the final countdown to the HSC. I would be disappointed to think that any of our boys have given up trying. We do not want to “nag” them – just suggest, encourage, support and applaud any efforts they might make, to do the very best they can with the talents God has given them. Finally, let us not forget the power of prayer in helping them to manage the many challenges they face in the days ahead.

4. **End of Year Behaviour** – The Class of 2022 deserve to be congratulated on the excellent work they have completed throughout this year and it is with great excitement that we prepare for these end-of-year celebrations. Our senior students are in their final stages of schooling and I would encourage them to maintain their focus in the coming weeks. 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.





Inappropriate, immature and destructive behaviour is considered unacceptable. All Year 12 students are expected to adhere to the College Uniform Policy for the remaining weeks, and through the final end of year events. If students do not comply, they may not be able to participate in the event. If students are involved in behaviour that is considered inappropriate, serious consequences will follow. At all times, it is imperative that discretion, safety and good judgement be typical of festivities that occur.

At this point, we appeal to both parents and students, to work cooperatively with teachers in trying to meet the aforementioned expectations. I have every confidence that the HSC Class of 2022 will maintain this tradition.

5. We need all Year 12's to approach the HSC exam period with a positive attitude. The boys 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 deportment and grooming etc. In a true spirit of co-operation, I believe our young men 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 in regard to 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.
- Remaining in the exam room for the full duration of each exam. 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 quietly with due respect to the needs of other students in the school environment. They are not to visit hotels following an examination.

I trust that parents will accept the expectations I have expressed in this letter in the spirit in which they are set. I am hoping we can work together to ensure our students and your sons 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 Cameron Alexander
Acting College Principal