

April 9, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome back to what is going to be a very different Term 2.

As I am sure you are all aware, schools will move to “Remote Learning” for Term 2. Both the Premier and the Minister of Education announced this week that the expectation is that both staff and students **must stay at home if they can stay at home**. Should you believe that there are exceptional circumstances and that your child cannot stay at home during the day please contact the school via phone or email, so that we can discuss how the school might support your child.

During Term 2 our curriculum will be delivered remotely. DayMAP will be our main platform which students will access for their work, however, hard copies or digital copies (via USB) of the work will be made available as needed. Digital technologies will be the main way that the curriculum is delivered. If you are unable to access work due to computers or internet restrictions, please contact the school (it@shc.vic.edu.au) or contact your classroom teacher to seek assistance in obtaining the work.

Teachers have been asked to make themselves available during their normal class times to assist students with their work. This could involve responding to emails, using Video Conferencing (WebEx), online forums (Google Docs, Google Hang outs, etc) to communicate with students. However, most teachers will be working from home, with only a handful of staff being present at school on any given day.

As parents, it is important that we work with our students to;

- Create a quiet space where they students can work in each day.
- Develop a schedule each week which allocates time for students to complete classwork, exercise, read, relax etc. Creating routines for our children will be very important over the coming months.
- “Screen time” will also be something which needs to be monitored, however remember that “screen time” where students are visiting online museums, reading etc can also be an educational experience.
- Recognise that these are exceptional times and monitor your child’s physical and mental wellbeing.

The State Government have made several statements recently regarding VCE. At this stage it looks likely that Year 12 examinations will be held in December and the GAT will be held in October. This means that Year 12 classes will most likely continue until these exams occur. Many subjects will complete theory based topics in Term 2 and leave the practical aspects of the subject until Terms 3 and 4. There is no doubt that practical classes are likely to be significantly impacted. I am proud of the way our teachers have tackled this, coming up with innovative ways to solve this dilemma. However, this will be an ongoing process.

There has been quite a lot of media attention given to the “fairness” of the student ATAR at the end of this year. It is important to remember that the ATAR is a student ranking not the total of the student results. This means that even though the overall results might be lower for everyone in 2020, the

actual ATAR scores should be the same. If a student received an ATAR score of 90 in 2019, then they should still receive a score of 90 in 2020.

The wellbeing of our students will be important over the coming weeks. Each member of the teaching staff has been allocated a class who they will contact each week to ensure that the student feels supported and that they are coping with the changes. Our Wellbeing team, Learning Support Officers and Year Level Managers will also check in with students over the coming weeks.

Thank you again for your continued support you have shown in working through this pandemic. I feel exceptionally lucky that I have such a hard working staff and understanding parent community around me. Please continue to contact the school as you have questions or need assistance.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Sartori
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