

May 8, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Can I say once again how proud we are of our students and staff who have worked so hard to make remote learning work. Well done to the parents, guardians and older siblings who have supported our students throughout the past four weeks. We have certainly learnt a lot about the advantages and disadvantages of learning remotely, and look forward to a time when we can reflect on these learnings.

Several staff have indicated that they feel their students and quite possibly families are starting to feel overwhelmed with the pressure of learning from home. With this in mind, we have decided to make **Monday 18th May** a "catch up" day for staff and students. On this day we are encouraging students to use the time to "catch up" on work, sleep, exercise and use the day to disengage from remote learning. Students might like to do some reading, Physical Education, clean their room or even help out with some house work. I suggest it would be a good opportunity to have a break from computer screens and enjoy some time to themselves. Staff will also have the opportunity to take some time away from videoconferencing, and emails and won't be available.

At this stage we are uncertain how long remote learning will continue for. Should it be for the remainder of term, we may have additional "catch up" days in order to support the wellbeing and mental health of our school community. It is a difficult balance between setting too much or not enough work for students. Teachers have been asked to be mindful of the amount of time spent online and the number of tasks being set for students.

At the end of last week all Year 11 and 12 study designs were changed to allow students sufficient time to complete their studies. While each subject in VCE, VET and VCAL has been adapted in different ways, the following is a quick summary of the general changes.

- Each subject has had topics or parts of topics removed from Unit 4 (Semester 2). Unit 3 (Semester 1) has stayed relatively unchanged.
- The "weighting" of each assessment task has been adjusted to reflect these changes.
- The criteria for assessment tasks has been changed to reflect the shortened timelines, making the tasks smaller and less time consuming.
- The examination content for each subject has also been adjusted to reflect the changes mentioned above.
- Year 12 examinations have been postponed, with a possible early December start. A timetable will be released in the coming weeks.
- The timeline for Unit 3 (Semester 1) School Based Assessment has been extended to August 24th.

While there is no doubt 2020 will be very different for our Year 12's, these changes should make completing Year 12 very achievable, as long as students continue to work hard at their studies. Some parents have been concerned about the possible impact remote learning may have on students' ATAR scores. The ATAR is a ranking of all VCE students. At the end of the year, VCAA add up each student's score and then rank these scores from highest to lowest. As all students have experienced school closures due to COVID-19, the ATAR score students achieve in 2020 should be the same as the ATAR score they would have achieved in 2019 (or any other year).

It has been wonderful to see the way Victorians have managed the past few weeks. I have no doubt there will be further changes after Monday 11th May. If and when changes to schooling arrangements are announced, I will distribute this information as soon as I am able.

Thank you again for your assistance through these challenging times. Stay well.



Andrew Sartori
Principal