



Enter to Learn, Go out to Serve

- *Dot Points from the Dean of Studies ...*



- I do hope you managed to have a break over the holiday period, whatever that looked like for your family. What a time we are living in! It has been a new experience for all of us. When training as a teacher, I certainly didn't anticipate a time when we would see remote learning delivered to an entire school community. I have been and continue to be extremely proud of our students and the way they have embraced online learning and its complexities. I want to thank you as parents for your support at this time. We continue to appreciate your feedback and we want you to know that we are committed to supporting all children, as we continue on this journey together.
- We recognise that online learning is vastly different to face-to-face teaching. Staff have adapted teaching and learning and assessments to the different modes of learning. Given the significant differences in the platforms there have been a number of changes to the academic calendar events for Autumn Term and these are outlined in the following pages. All decisions have been and continue to be made with the students learning at the forefront of our minds.

- **Autumn Term Bell Times**

The following bell times will be used for all students, whether learning from home or at school, participating in supervised online learning or on campus for face-to-face teaching.

Transition, Kindergarten and Year 1 finish at 2.15pm each day. The starting time for T-4 is 8.25am each day. **Years 2-6** finish at 2.30pm and Years 7-12 at 2.40pm.

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|-----------------|--------------------|--------|
| Period 1 | 8:10am to 9:15am | 65 min |
| Period 2 | 9:15am to 10:20am | 65 min |
| Recess | 10:20am to 10:50am | 30 min |
| Period 3 | 10:50am to 11:55am | 65 min |
| Period 4 | 11:55am to 1:00pm | 65 min |
| Lunch 1 | 1:00pm to 1:20pm | 20 min |
| Lunch 2 | 1:20pm to 1:40pm | 20 min |
| Period 5 | 1:40pm to 2:40pm | 60 min |

- **K-10 NESAs Curriculum Decisions**

In 2020, all school principals and sectors have been given the authority to decide which syllabus outcomes and content they teach and assess for Kinder-Year 10 from Autumn Term. This gives teachers the ability to make decisions about the essential learning required for specific students, classes, subjects and courses.

- **Online Learning Considerations**

Once grades return to face-to-face teaching there will need to be some flexibility regarding the posting of work. Online work will still be made available for the small number of students still working from home, however, teachers may post lessons at slightly different times. ie For Years 11,12, K and 1, work may not be posted by 8.30am each day as teachers need adequate time to create online lessons. In some instances, teachers may want to record parts of the face-to-face lesson for those working at home.

In some classes, (particularly K-6) casual teachers may assist with the dual mode of delivery. They may be posting on Seesaw or Google Classroom, answering questions, marking, giving feedback or even taking classes for face-to-face teaching from time-to-time to give classroom teachers time to create quality lessons for all students.

It has been wonderful to see our K,1 and 11,12 students resume face-to-face teaching this week and for the continuation of learning to be smooth.

- **Student Engagement with Online Learning**

As some students continue with the online learning platform, there are a number of different ways we as teachers are trying to ensure students are engaged in tasks and are actively participating and taking responsibility for their learning. Tasks completed online may be used as evidence of learning to inform Reports.

K-6 – Class teachers will contact parents if a student in their class is not engaging in online learning as expected.

Years 7-12 – There are a number of ways students demonstrate their engagement in online learning. This will vary according to the task and the subject studied. Some of these may include:

- 'Marking as done' in Google Classroom
- 'Handing in' an assessment in Google Classroom as instructed by the teacher (the following video explains how a student can submit tasks in Google Classroom - <https://youtu.be/R2qk5PsSx8c>).
- Submitting tasks via email or other platforms such as flipgrid, moodle
- Submitting tasks by taking a photo and emailing or sending through Google Classroom or other platforms as required
- Completing the feedback sheet supplied by the teacher (for some classes only)
- Asking the teacher questions and/or requesting feedback on a particular task

If a student is continuing online learning at home due to COVID19 after a year group has resumed face-to-face teaching, class teachers will be asked to report students who are not engaging in class tasks and/or assessments and parents will be contacted.

- **Academic Reports**

Reports have been developed to recognise the particular challenges and opportunities in teaching and learning faced by staff and students in the first half of the year. The COVID-19 virus and the subsequent restrictions set for social distancing, self-isolation and hygiene control have meant that we have needed to rethink what learning looks like. The 2020 Half Yearly Reports will reflect the nature of learning remotely as well as face-to-face.

Transition Reports will be put on hold until such time as face-to-face teaching resumes. More information regarding the distribution of these Reports will be forthcoming next Term.

K-6 Reports will be written and distributed at the beginning of Winter Term to allow teachers time to adequately assess, report and examine evidence of learning for each of the students in their care.

7-12 Academic Reports for students in Years 7-12 will be distributed throughout Autumn Term in the following order – Year 8, 10, 12, 7, 9 and then 11. A great deal of time and effort goes into writing reports for each child in order to indicate student progress as well as identify areas for improvement (areas for growth). Class work and assessments completed whilst face-to-face teaching and online learning was delivered will be taken into account as evidence for learning.

Given the cancellation of numerous Co-Curricular activities, Head of House Comments will be written for Year 12 only. Year 7 Advisor Comments will be written for Year 7.

- **Parent Teacher Interviews**

Kindergarten to Year 6 Parent-Teacher Interviews will go ahead via phone in Autumn Term on Thursday 4 June and Tuesday 9 June (Week 7). Further information will be communicated to parents in due time.

Years 7 to Year 11 Parent-Teacher Interviews will not be held in Autumn Term as planned.

Year 12 Parent-Teacher Interviews will go ahead in Autumn Term and are scheduled for Monday 15 June. They will be held via phone and more details regarding times and how to book in will be sent to parents.

- **Assessment Tasks (Years 7-12)**

Amended Autumn Term Assessment Overviews for all students 7-12 were emailed in Week 1 of this Term.

Illness/Misadventure – If a student is unwell or they believe their performance in a formal assessment task is affected, documentary evidence should be supplied to support the illness/misadventure application which is to be given to Mrs Watkins (5-9) or Mrs Joel (10-12). It is essential students follow procedures according to the assessment manual.

IMPORTANT: Due to online learning delivery, ALL Autumn Term assessment tasks will be due by 3.00pm on the due date.

- **EVENTS – Significant Dates**

Subject Selection – Years 8 and 10

The Subject Selection Evening is scheduled for Thursday 11 June. Due to COVID-19 and social distancing restriction for parents, this information evening will be held in a different format. More details will be communicated to students and parents at a later time. Please contact Class Teachers, Faculty Heads, Mrs Watkins (Year 8), Mrs Joel (Year 10) or Mrs Elling (Years 8 & 10) if you have any preliminary questions.

Year 10 Minimum Standards Testing was due to be held this Term. This will be postponed to Winter Term.

Year 10 Academic Career and Academic Profiling (ALLWELL) has been postponed until Winter Term, Thursday 6 August.

Year 4s & 8 ALLWELL Academic Profiling is scheduled for Thursday 17 September (Winter Term). Further information will be distributed in time.

HSC Trials – Year 12 only

The HSC Trials will be held in Week 3 of Winter Term, Monday 10 August – Monday 24 August. A timetable with further details will be distributed closer to the time. The HSC Written Timetable is due to be released by NESA on 15 May.

Senior Study for Years 11 & 12 will begin Week 4. For Autumn Term, Senior Study evenings will be held on Wednesday and Thursdays only. Mrs Joel, the Head of Senior School has emailed parents recently with detailed information regarding these evenings.

- **Elevate Webinars - Years 7-12**

We received a lot of positive feedback regarding the Elevate webinar series that was held last week. Over 1600 parents tuned in from around New South Wales. Please find the link to the first webinar on Motivation if you would like to view it in your own time.

1) Motivation Webinar - ELEVATE

https://webinar.elevatecoaching.info/parent-webinar-watch/?utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=86587388&hsenc=p2ANqtz--bLuWELLZqwPfRoruZeOZXg_BjhSLT4mjSh-X2IKc6rDS2MgCmME5cAiOn9tR02Qu5MD1AcqgcOiCmGX2PVjDHLwOZSFFhh_E0y3HnjfrCfe0hATg&hsmi=86587388

Elevate also provided a helpful 'Motivation Cheat Sheet' – a copy has been attached.

2) Time Management, Organisation and Beating Procrastination Webinar - ELEVATE

Due to unprecedented demand, Elevate is running another webinar this evening, Tuesday 12 May at 6.00pm.

This webinar will focus on **time management, organisation** and **beating procrastination**.

Please follow the link to view this webinar: <https://get.elevatecoaching.info/au/webinar-watch-12-may/>

We recognise there are significant changes occurring in many areas of schooling due to COVID-19 and the move to online learning and then the important transition back to face-to-face teaching in a staggered approach. Please feel free to contact your child's class teacher/s, the relevant Heads of School or myself if you have any questions or queries regarding academic matters.

Yours sincerely



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