



Secondary School Update for Parents and Families

Dear Parents, Students and Families

We are looking at some changes in how we run At-Home Learning from Week 10 and into next term. Although we are unsure of what next term holds, we believe this new adjusted timetable will be sustainable long term. We would also like to use the phrase “At-Home Learning” in place of “Online Learning” as not all our learning has to be “online”.

Feedback received from other schools and some of our students is that the At-home Learning environment is very intense and many of the staff and students feel mentally exhausted at the end of the day. With this in mind, we are shifting to a “5 period day” timetable, with a 6th period of Free Learning at the end of each day. This will give opportunity for students to do PE, Soccer Academy/STEM/Music (Years 7 & 8) and Cadets, or just put in some extra time to whatever they need such as homework.

Starting Monday 6 April, we will be moving to shorter periods with breaks in between and a free learning session after lunch. The daily schedule is as below:

Time	Period
8:45	Form
9:00	1
9:40	Rest/Stretch break (5 min)
9:45	2
10:25	Rest/Stretch break (5 min)
10:30	3
11:10	Recess (20 min)
11:30	4
12:10	Rest/Stretch break (5 min)
12:15	5
12:55	Lunch (40 min)
1:35	Free Learning
3:15	End of Day

The new timetable for each student will be on SEQTA. They will notice the different times and order of subjects when they open it on Monday. Nothing else should change. If students are experiencing any difficulties at all with the new timetable, please ask them to contact their form teacher immediately who will pass on the message to the appropriate technical support.

We would ask that students continue to check in daily during form time with their form teacher as this is an excellent opportunity to maintain connection with each other. SEQTA forums are working well for this and for class discussion. Teachers are already using Teams to have interactive lessons with their students, and this will continue to grow as we all become more familiar with these technological tools.

Students are to be reminded that Outlook (school emails), SEQTA Forums and Teams are for academic and pastoral care purposes only. **All activity using ECCS credentials** (Outlook, SEQTA and TEAMS) can be **tracked and audited** if necessary. Parents, we ask that you continue to partner with us in regularly checking that your children are using these school platforms for educational purposes only. Students are still free to communicate via their own social media provided they do not use their school accounts.

The “Free Learning” after lunch is a time to do whatever a student requires. It can be used for Physical Education, Cadets, Soccer Academy/Music/STEM lessons or completion of work begun in earlier lessons (what was called “homework”). Teachers may trade some of this time for on-line assessment as it allows a little longer for students to do the assessment. Students can also message teachers at this time, and they will attend to these messages promptly but not necessarily right away.

Year 11 and 12 Students

Teachers, whilst able to do so, will prioritize the flow of work and feedback to our senior students. In doing so, teachers will continue in the use of SEQTA and Microsoft Teams and amend teaching programs so that students can work productively on tasks suited to the on-line environment available to them. While there will still be an element of direct instruction through Microsoft Teams and other means, students should expect to spend more time on reading, writing and research-based tasks, all of which can be done very productively from home.

Students studying a Certificate qualification will continue with knowledge and application-based learning as prescribed by the RTO / TAFE under the direction of their teacher through SEQTA and Microsoft Teams. All practical application and skill development aspects of the qualification will be covered when classes resume.

Assessments

The SCSA policy states:

Where a catastrophic event (e.g. a pandemic) affects delivery of the teaching program, the completion or submission of one or more assessment tasks and/or completion of the school examination timetable, students will be advised by the school of adjustments to the task requirements and/or the assessment outline.

Implementation of the practical steps of this policy will continue to evolve dependent on the situation.

- i. Previous schedules of assessments are in practical terms suspended.
- ii. Where relevant and possible, teachers will expect students to complete assignments. Assessments will continue but may need to be rescheduled.
- iii. Teachers may use online tests or other formative assessments to ascertain student learning.
- iv. Any online testing or formative assessments will be clearly communicated to students and parents.

Once again, thank you for your patience and support as we work together to deliver at-home learning for our students. We are aware that parents may be feeling overwhelmed with at-home learning and we would like to support you in any way we can. Please contact teachers for assistance either during the lesson on the timetable or during the Free Learning time in the afternoon using direct message or email. If you need to speak personally to a teacher, let them know via email or direct message and they will call you as soon as practicable.

May I leave you with the blessing from Numbers 6:24-26 (NIV)

²⁴ “““The LORD bless you

and keep you;

²⁵ the LORD make his face shine on you

and be gracious to you;

²⁶ the LORD turn his face toward you

and give you peace.””

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2 April 2020