

25 March 2020

Re: Latest Information Novel Coronavirus Impact – Remote Learning

Dear Year 12 Students,

I am writing to you to explain how the remote learning program we have had to put in place due to the outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus will impact your studies.

Thank you so much for your cooperation and support in these difficult and unusual times.

Please be assured that as a school, we have your learning and wellbeing as our highest priority. We are very aware of the additional pressures you face with the HSC and associated Assessment Tasks. We are living in very uncertain times with this global pandemic and all the associated national and local restrictions.

Our aim is to ensure the continuity of your learning as much as is possible. I will be monitoring the situation and in consultation with your teachers, will be making adjustments to ensure we are able to provide you with as fair and equitable adjustments as we are permitted to alleviate your stress. This is especially vital since NESA's announcement yesterday that the HSC will go ahead for 2020.

As with all NSW schools, from Tuesday 24th March 2020, we have asked students where possible to remain at home and undertake remote learning.

Please see below for the summary of information specific to Year 12 for the remainder of Term 1 2020.

Component	Information			Communication
Teaching and learning	Google Classrooms or other platforms as negotiated with your teachers	See information on your Dept email for codes and how to access and use Google classrooms	Work for every subject will be available and you may post work there for feedback to your teachers	Email or phone your teachers as required on the @det.nsw.edu.au emails
Teaching and learning	Recommended you follow your normal timetable. You may follow your own timetable however ensure you check and complete work for each of your subjects every two days as important work may be required for completion.			
Assessment Tasks - tests or practicals	Attend school at the normal timetabled time/s to complete task	Conducted by your teachers with appropriate social distancing measures	Uniform optional Attend for task time only	Email or phone your teachers with questions you need answered

Assessment Tasks – Hand-in	To be emailed to teachers, uploaded to Google Classrooms or a hard copy to front office ON DAY DUE BY 3PM.	If a hard copy delivered to the front office ensure the coversheet that includes your name and your teacher’s name clearly		Email or phone your teachers with questions you need answered
Assessment Tasks	Assessment tasks are COMPULSORY and MUST be completed in the times set. If you have missed a test/practical task email your teacher when you can attend to complete. In this current situation ONLY teachers MAY have ONE extra session for students to complete tests.			
Work Placements for VET	Postponed	Awaiting NESA information		
Performances practice	Postponed	Awaiting NESA information		
Major works and projects	Email your teachers to negotiate when you can attend school to work on these	Individual work only with appropriate social distancing measures		Email or phone your teachers with questions you need answered

Any students who attend school will be completing the same online units of work as students who are learning from home. There will not be any face to face teaching until the school resumes normal activity.

If you need to come in to see a teacher for any element of your work please email/phone them and make a suitable time and follow suitable social distancing measures.

Year 12 Special Education students who attend school will follow social distancing measures and complete tasks set by their teachers.

Teachers will be available to work and communicate with you between the hours of 8.45am and 3pm, Monday to Friday. Outside of those times it is at each teacher’s discretion.

Your Counsellors are available by phone, email or in person with an appointment. Please do not hesitate to contact them or any other school staff you need.

Please be assured that we have your best interests at the centre of all that we are doing. Adjustments where required and where **we are able will be made to assessment tasks** in consultation with you and your teachers and communicated to you to alleviate stress and ensure fairness.

Adjustments to the information above will be made as new information comes to us from the NSW DoE and NESA. It will be communicated as a matter of urgency to students and parents on our website, Facebook and Schoolbag.

Attached you will find the media release from NESA stating that the HSC will be going ahead at this point in time.

Anna Tsoutsas

Principal



2020 HSC IS GOING AHEAD

24 March 2020

Media release 

At its meeting today, the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) Board confirmed that the Higher School Certificate (HSC) is going ahead in 2020, along with a commitment to providing clear and regular advice to the community about the HSC as the COVID-19 outbreak continues.

To this end, the NESA Board established a COVID-19 Response Committee to address developing issues as a matter of urgency.

Following the meeting, Chair of the NESA Board Professor Peter Shergold said he had three important messages for HSC students:

1. We know you are worried. While we recognise we are facing an unprecedented situation, we want to assure you that you will be able to get a HSC certificate this year, and that the certificate will facilitate access to university, further education and employment, as it has for students over the past 50 years.
2. Keep learning, do your assessments as advised by your school, make progress on your major projects where you can and, most importantly, look after yourself, whether you are at school or at home. Reach out to family, friends and your teachers if you need to.
3. If you get sick, your school and NESA have provisions to ensure you are not disadvantaged.

Effective immediately the Board is giving principals or system authorities the power to make decisions about the number and weighting of HSC formal assessment tasks for their school in 2020. The Board affirms its complete trust in principals and teachers.

"This action provides schools with the flexibility they need to support their students in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak," Professor Shergold said.

NESA will provide specific advice to principals about this delegation of authority later this week.

The NESA COVID-19 Response Committee is aware of and will urgently provide advice on the following issues:

- work placements for VET students
- students working on a group drama, dance or music performance
- students completing projects and major works.

Professor Shergold said the situation faced by schools was unprecedented and that in this situation the Board recognises above all else that the health, safety and welfare of students and teachers is paramount.

"The Board discussed at length issues of disadvantage, dislocation and social isolation.

"Decisions and advice will be based on the principles of fairness and equity that have always underpinned the internationally recognised HSC credential," Professor Shergold said.

The COVID-19 Response Committee includes representation from each of the three school sectors who are committed to working together. It will meet at least weekly, but more frequently if needed, to address issues as they arise and provide clear communication to schools and principals. The committee members include:

- Professor Peter Shergold, Chair of NESA Board
- Mark Scott, Secretary of the NSW Department of Education
- Dallas McInemey, CEO Catholic Schools NSW
- Dr Geoff Newcombe, CEO Association of Independent Schools
- Jenny Allum, Chair of NESA Assessment Committee
- Denis Fitzgerald, Chair of NESA Curriculum Committee
- Paul Martin CEO of NESA.

For up to date advice about the 2020 HSC visit the NESA COVID-19 advice page: <https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/about/news/novel-coronavirus>