

Dear senior students,

I am writing to give you an update about how things are changing in the worlds of VCE and VCAL due to the Coronavirus and the Remote Learning Program.

The first thing is that I hope you are well and I hope you are looking after yourself. We know there has been a lot of uncertainty in regards to how schooling is going to look during this term and moving forward for the rest of the year. We know this can be difficult, but I want to remind all students that our staff are all working hard to make sure you get the help and support needed to keep up with your studies. If you keep in touch with your teachers and follow their instructions then you won't be missing out and you aren't going to fall behind and you are going to pass your year 12.

If you are struggling with anything, please remember to reach out and ask for help – there are so many avenues for you to get help – feel free to email your teachers, or your House Leaders, or your friends and remember to talk about how you are going with your family at home as well.

VCAL updates

The main change in VCAL is that schools have been given extra time to complete their learning programs which means that it is likely that the school year will be extended at the end of the year for senior students.

The only other change is that for some VET subjects, it may be necessary to continue these units later in the year than normal and maybe even into early next year. These will not affect your future pathways or access to course beyond next year, but may be necessary to get the number of hours required for some qualifications.

VCE updates

In regards to VCE there are several changes to study designs and timelines that will ensure students are supported to complete their studies successfully. These changes will result in less content needing to be studied and more time to study that content. Some of the changes include:

- Semester 1 has been extended by 2 weeks and will finish at the end of Term 2, giving teachers and classes extra time to complete SACs.
- All unit 4 study designs have been shortened, with content removed for this year. This means that the exams and assessment will focus more heavily on unit 3. Your teachers will be able to tell you exactly what has been taken out of the unit 4 study designs for this year.
- Year 11 exams will still take place (either remotely or at school) but these will be delayed by 2 weeks until week 11.
- All yr 11 studies will remain the same, but teachers have flexibility to shorten these units if they need to.
- We are releasing our VCE Remote Assessment Policy that will enable VCE students to undertake SACs at home during remote learning.
- At this stage we don't know the dates for end of year exams and the GAT. The GAT is postponed and will take place later in the year, and it is likely the exams will also be delayed.

VCE Remote Assessment Policy

We have developed a VCE remote assessment policy that will allow you to undertake SACs from home. The policy allows SACs to commence from week 5. To be able to undertake a SAC from home you need the following things:

- Internet connection and access to a computer with a video and microphone enabled

- A quiet space in your home in which to undertake the SAC

If you don't have these things, then you may need to come into school to undertake your SAC. You would still be sitting a remote SAC, but it will just be undertaken at school with the same conditions as everyone else.

Every SAC will have an authentication record that you must sign at the beginning of the SAC, and you will need to read the dot points within these 2 pages. The authentication record is attached to this message so you can start reading it, and it just outlines the rules of these assessments that you must agree to. Without going through all of them here, these are some of the most important rules:

- You must have WebEx running throughout the SAC with the video and microphone on
- You will need to download your SAC paper as you begin the task, and at the end of the task you must submit the paper immediately, along with photo of any notes or working out paper you required throughout the SAC
- You must not communicate with anyone else during the SAC by any means
- You must close all windows on your computer except those specifically required for the SAC

Absence during a SAC

If your teacher is running a SAC then you must attend that SAC. The only reason to miss a SAC is if you are suffering from an illness and in this case you would require a medical certificate to enable you to re-sit the SAC. If there are issues or concerns about your access to technology or appropriate work space, then your teacher will work out with you if these can be solved or if you will need to come into school to complete the SAC.

If there is an unforeseen problem on the day of a SAC – unforeseen meaning that it could not have been predicted or avoided – then you will be asked to provide a description of the problem in writing. In this case the school will assess your issue and if we agree that it was unforeseen then you will be granted another chance to undertake the SAC for a score.

SACs onsite at School

If the SAC is such that it cannot be completed at home – in the event of a practical investigation for example – then the teacher may choose to run that SAC at school. Appropriate hygiene and social distancing measures will apply in these cases, and the teacher will set up an event on Compass that parents must give permission on. In this case, students will only be required at school for the duration of the SAC.

If a student cannot attend an onsite SAC they must notify their teacher as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements.

Closing remarks

The closing message to students is to continue to work through your courses as best as you can and to constantly seek help from your teachers about any areas of your courses that you are needing help with. We are here (here being at home) working each day and ensuring our students are supported and getting what they need to learn is our number 1 priority. It isn't always perfect at this stage – but it is that way for everyone and all you can do is try your best and know that we are here to support you through this time.

As always, be sure to look after yourself and remember to look after and check in with your friends and peers as well.

Kind regards,

Michael Melfi
Assistant Principal