



22 July 2021

Dear Year Twelve and parents,

I am writing to provide an update on matters pertaining to Year Twelve, including upcoming assessments, NESA Major Works, and the HSC Trial Examinations.

The College continues to receive and monitor information provided by NSW Health, NESA and the Association of Independent Schools, to make informed and appropriate decisions for the College. As relevant decisions are made by these organisations, these will be communicated to students and parents by the College.

Recently, NESA has communicated specific amendments to some major work submission dates, which are outlined below.

1. Trial HSC Examinations

In correspondence with Year Twelve on Friday 9 July, I confirmed the postponement of the HSC Trials Examinations from Week Three of Term Three, to commence in Week Five of Term Three. This is in accordance with advice from NESA recommending schools postpone the examination period to later in Term Three. At the time of writing, the College is planning to conduct the Trial Examinations in a COVID safe manner at the College.

The Trial Examinations are internal assessments, and are within the College's remit to conduct in ways deemed most appropriate for our context. We are monitoring reports about changing restrictions carefully and making some contingencies in the background to manage this aspect of the Year Twelve assessment program.

Our preference has always been onsite physical examinations, as planned. Because they have been a published component of course assessment schedules since last year, the fairest way forward is to keep them as they are. If modification is required, it will only be because circumstances won't permit the Trial Examinations to proceed as planned.

Students are advised to continue preparing for HSC Trial Examinations.

2. HSC Major Work

NESA has confirmed changes to some subjects' Major Work performance or submission components as per below. Students are directed to liaise with the subject teacher if they have questions regarding these changes.

- a. Languages Oral examinations have been rescheduled to run from 14 August to 18 September for students in Greater Sydney. A revised timetable will be published by NESA on Monday 26 July.
- b. Dance performance examinations have been rescheduled to run from 13 September to 17 September for students in Greater Sydney. The College is awaiting confirmation of our allocated marking date.
- c. Society and Culture PIP submission date has been rescheduled to 9 August at 3:00pm.

Further advice relating to other subjects is expected to be communicated in the coming week.

3. Other Assessments

The Academic Executive of the College has reviewed the assessments planned for Term Three. NESAs has endorsed schools to amend assessment details, including dates, weighting and associated outcomes, as needed in response to COVID restrictions. Where Departments have determined a need to amend an assessment task, the revised details will be communicated to students in re-issued Assessment Notifications. Fortunately, there are not many assessments scheduled for Term Three other than the Trial Examinations.

4. Onsite Attendance

Directives from NESAs on 21 July have specified that students are only permitted onto school campuses where it is "absolutely necessary". Students in Year Twelve may collect major works or resources from the College campus, but other planned workshops and sessions to progress major works have been put on hold. The College awaits further advice, particularly in relation to access to the campus after 31 July. NESAs has directed students and schools to address any disadvantage experienced by students due to the inability to access the College and complete their Major Works through their established Misadventure applications. If students feel this is applicable to their circumstance, they are encouraged to initially discuss this with their class teacher.

Please be assured that the College continues to prioritise the wellbeing and support of our Year Twelve students during this challenging time. We will continue to make decisions and provide information based on consideration of external advice, as well as what we consider to be the most appropriate way forward for our students and College.

It is also worth referencing the Stay Healthy HSC Hub (<https://education.nsw.gov.au/student-wellbeing/stay-healthy-HSC?q>) which students and parents can access for information, tips and resources to support student wellbeing.

If you have any concerns or queries regarding the above information please feel free to contact me via email.

Best regards,



Mr Hadley Johnston
Director of Curriculum