



26 March 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

I am writing to you to detail arrangements for the remainder of Term One and Term Two. I appreciate that the news presented today is short notice for families. However, the current situation is moving rapidly, and this new information has just recently come to hand.

## End of Term One

As a result of the evolving COVID-19 situation, today the Queensland Government has advised that next week Queensland schools will be student free. Please note that Learning@Home materials will not be provided to students next week.

While students are not required to attend school next week, the school will continue to provide supervision for students where their parents are required to attend work and for vulnerable students (e.g. those living in out-of-home care). If you need to send your son to school, please send an email to the relevant Student Support Officer detailed below by 12noon Friday 27 March.

Junior School - Mrs Maria Mascadri - [junior@vnc.qld.edu.au](mailto:junior@vnc.qld.edu.au)

Middle School - Mrs Vicki Lamb - [middle@vnc.qld.edu.au](mailto:middle@vnc.qld.edu.au)

Senior School - Mrs Joy Browning and Mrs Sandy Foster - [senior@vnc.qld.edu.au](mailto:senior@vnc.qld.edu.au)

The change to the end of Term One arrangements is designed to help our staff and school prepare for the remote delivery of teaching and learning in Term Two. If this is required, it would involve learning at home for many families.

I thank our dedicated staff for their continued support of our students during this very challenging time. Their wellbeing is also a key factor in our planning and preparation.

## Term Two Arrangements

As the Premier advised this morning, the precise arrangements for Week 1 of Term Two will be advised closer to that time and will be guided by the advice of health authorities.

Consistent with the Premier and Prime Minister's recent announcements about the need to provide appropriate social distancing at schools, we anticipate that parents who can support learning at home will likely be asked to keep their children at home from Week 1 of Term Two.

It is also likely that schools will need to remain operational at the start of Term Two for those parents who need to send their children due to work commitments (unless their child is sick) or because the student is vulnerable (such as those living out of home). As a school, we are committed to supporting our essential workers at this challenging time.

Specific arrangements for Term Two will be confirmed as soon as possible.

However, to assist with our initial Term Two planning, please advise the College by no later than Wednesday 15 April at 3.00 pm if you anticipate that you will need to send your child/ren to school from Week 1 of Term Two by contacting Ms Amanda Waterson in the Principal's Office – ph: 3394 5504 or email [principal@vnc.qld.edu.au](mailto:principal@vnc.qld.edu.au).

This will assist us to make appropriate arrangements to plan for students who may need to attend the College.



We are in a position to transition to delivery of year-level and subject specific educational programs for all students in Term Two to accommodate learning at home.

## Tuition Fees

As the school will continue to operate and our staff will keep working to provide continuity of teaching and learning, including under learning at home arrangements, tuition fees for Term One and Term Two will operate as they do normally.

I acknowledge the difficult economic circumstances many families now find themselves in and I encourage any family facing difficulty with payment of tuition fees to discuss the matter with our Business Manager, Mrs Agi Waloszek by contacting her at the College – ph: 3394 5508 and email [awaloszek@vnc.qld.edu.au](mailto:awaloszek@vnc.qld.edu.au) or Ms Nicole Hinds – ph: 3394 5552 and email [nhinds@vnc.qld.edu.au](mailto:nhinds@vnc.qld.edu.au).

In accordance with the mission, values and ethos of our College, we remain committed to supporting all our families and especially those in financial need to continue to receive a quality Catholic education at Villanova College. There are numerous options available to families. Please do not hesitate to contact the relevant staff at the College if you are experiencing difficulties with paying tuition fees and levies.

## Year 12 Students

It is important that Year 12 students studying General Mathematics attend their exam tomorrow with school starting at the normal time.

The Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) has recently advised all schooling authorities of the removal of one internal assessment task from the total of four prescribed in each syllabus for 2020.

This will provide some relief for students as they contend with uncertainty and disruption while working towards their Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) in 2020. It will also support teachers to manage reduced classroom time.

In the next few weeks, the QCAA will provide schools with direction on how they should adjust what is taught and the nature and timing of other assessments. There will be some flexibility to accommodate the specific needs of subjects – both General and Applied – but across-the-board adjustment is necessary to ensure the assessment experience is as equitable as it can be for all students.

Students can be assured that they will still receive fair subject results based on fewer than the four assessments mandated in syllabuses.

## Year 11 Assessment

Year 11 students are expected to complete and submit assignments from their respective subjects due by the end of week 10 - Friday 3 April via email to their respective teachers.

## Year 10 Assessment

Tomorrow the timetabled exams for Economics, Specialist Mathematics and Hospitality Practices assessment will go ahead. Next week there will be no further Year 10 exams scheduled. However, students are expected to complete and submit outstanding assignments due by the end of Week 10 - Friday 3 April to their respective teachers via email.



## Year 5 – Year 9 Assessment

All exams scheduled for Week 10 are being waived except in the circumstance where assessment can be completed online. Individual teachers will be in touch with relevant classes. Any assignments due in Week 10 are still to be submitted electronically to the respective teacher.

## Student Wellbeing and Pastoral Care

We know this is an unsettling time for the whole community and it is important that as a College community and as families we provide reassurance for our students and keep their lives as normal as possible.

We will be supporting our students as follows during this period:

- Regular communications from Pastoral Area Leader and Heads of School
- Provision of counselling services – separate communication regarding this will be sent later today.

## School Communications

Although we are likely to commence under new arrangements in Term Two, we will continue to communicate with you through the normal school channels whenever new information is available.

You can contact the school by email at [villa@vnc.qld.edu.au](mailto:villa@vnc.qld.edu.au) or by phoning 3394 5690.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the sick and the vulnerable at this time and also with the frontline health and emergency services workers bringing care and healing to those affected by the virus.

I know this will be a difficult time for our whole community and I thank you in advance for your support of our students and staff and your understanding as we go forward.

Yours sincerely

Mr Mark Stower  
Principal

