



14 April 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

I hope the Easter break was a period to rest and enjoy time with your family. The social distancing practices of COVID-19 present many challenges to our way of life at this present time. I like many others, have been keeping in touch with loved ones via video conferencing and discovering many new hobbies to while away the hours.

Detailed below are the arrangements for the first five weeks of Term Two.

### **Learning@Home Term Two Arrangements: Weeks 1 - 5**

I can advise that the Queensland Government yesterday decided that **school students will move to a home-based learning model from 20 April 2020 until at least 22 May 2020.**

During this period, **all students who are able to be supervised and learn from home are to stay at home**, except for:

- Children of essential workers on days when they are not able to be supervised at home and no other arrangements can be made. Essential worker means any worker who must continue to attend their workplace for essential business during this time.
- Vulnerable children. Vulnerable children include children identified as vulnerable (i.e. at risk) or who:
  - are currently receiving services from Child Safety, including children who are subject to a child protection order
  - are subject to a youth justice order.

Villanova College will provide on-site supervision for these children while they participate in the learning activities that have been set by their regular classroom teachers.

I ask parents/care givers to register their intention to send their child to the College by contacting Ms Amanda Waterson, Principal's Executive Assistant via email – [awaterson@vnc.qld.edu.au](mailto:awaterson@vnc.qld.edu.au) by **12noon Thursday 16 April 2020**. I remind you that any student who is displaying any cold or flu-like symptoms is **not** to be sent to school.

Our Learning@Home program will provide continuity of learning for our students during this time. I encourage them to embrace this opportunity to continue to develop as independent learners who are resourceful and disciplined with their studies.

### **Protocols and Procedures – Learning@Home**

Communication regarding the procedures and protocols for Learning@Home will be emailed home to all families on Wednesday 15 April from their respective Head of School. These procedures and protocols will detail the arrangements for the learning day for students, and expectations to ensure continuity of learning.

Please note that for the first two weeks the normal online learning modalities currently used in classrooms will operate, with students engaging with OneNote and Moodle and other online learning tools. It is extremely important students establish a work routine within the home and are ready to commence work at 8.30am each day. Please do not hesitate to contact the relevant class teacher if for any reason your son is unable to complete the set work.



After the first two weeks, teaching staff will introduce video conferencing with their classes to engage with students and discuss work that has been set for completion. These conferences will provide support to students from their classroom teachers and other staff including teacher-aides who normally support students with their learning. Early next week students and parents will be sent a link outlining the student expectations for video conferencing and recording which will need to be read and acknowledged by both parents and students.

### **Roll-marking – Term Two**

During the next five weeks I ask that the normal student absence procedures continue to operate. The College's preferred notification for student absentees is through Parent Lounge or the College App. An alternative number to report an absentee is 3394 5699. Parents are requested to inform the College if their son is sick and is unable to complete work on any given day. Student services staff will update class rolls accordingly, once notification is received.

### **Year 11 and Year 12 Studies**

Villanova College will continue to provide every support to our students completing their Senior schooling program. Students and parents of our Year 12 students are aware the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) Board decided one of the three internal assessments would be removed from the summative assessment requirements for all General and Applied subjects.

The QCAA will continue to monitor the impacts of COVID-19 on Senior schooling including any changes that might be required to external assessment.

The QCAA website has responses to [frequently asked questions](#) for parents and students about the removal of an internal assessment and to clarify that this will not impact the calculation of students' ATARs.

Villanova College will continue to work with QCAA and provide advice regarding Year 11 and Year 12 learning.

### **Staying Safe and Healthy**

During this time it is important that we continue to follow all guidelines and rules to prevent the spread of the virus. As advised at the beginning of this letter, schools are able to provide supervision to children of essential workers on days when no other arrangements can be made, and also to vulnerable students. Please note these are the exceptions to students studying at home.

Please stay safe, continue to practise your social distancing and good hygiene. I look forward to welcoming our students back in the near future.

Yours sincerely

Mr Mark Stower  
Principal