



ST PIUS X COLLEGE

CHATSWOOD

6 August 2021

RE: Announcement regarding HSC Trials and Term 3 online learning K-12

Dear parents, caregivers and HSC candidates

I write to all the College community following some significant announcements this morning from the NSW Government regarding school education and particularly in relation to Year 12, the HSC Trials and online learning K-12.

Attached please find the Press release from the NSW Minister for Education, Sarah Mitchell. Attached also is the statement from Catholic Schools NSW(CSNSW) outlining the position of Catholic schools particularly relating to the Sydney metropolitan area. There is also a Frequently Asked Question document for your information.

In summary:

- Year 12 students will **not** return to face-to-face learning from 16 August.
- The Year 12 return date will be determined by the Government. HSC students will not participate in any Trial HSC Examinations onsite at schools and will not return to school for normal onsite learning in Term 3 until all students have been cleared to return. Therefore remote learning will continue.
- Noting the Trial HSC Examinations are not a mandatory form of assessment. Decisions regarding Trial Examinations are devolved to individual schools and Systems, who will determine what alternative assessment or student activity will be implemented. These decisions will have regard for NESA's HSC assessment advice.
- Consistent with the Public Health Order, HSC students, for whom it is necessary to attend school will be supported to do so. Students will be supported to meet assessment requirements for their major works, performance requirements and oral exams, where applicable.

Kindergarten to Year 11

- More definitive advice on whether face-to-face teaching can resume in Term 3 after 28 August will be issued as health advice is updated. Noting that Term 3 continues for some weeks into September, CSNSW will seek the earliest possible advice from the Government about this matter.
- Parents should be assured that Catholic schools are preparing for the contingency of remote learning for the remainder of Term 3, with only those students who need to attend school doing so. This can be delivered and will enable teachers to plan remote learning interventions with greater certainty.
- Term 4 will return to onsite learning for all students, contingent on Government advice and in a manner consistent with health guidelines.
- Catholic schools will develop plans for assessment and reporting for K-11 that address the constraints of Term 3, including the Record of School Achievement and HSC 2022 activities for current Year 11 students.

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There is more detail in the CSNSW release, and I encourage all to read this in full.

At St Pius X College, we welcome these decisions as they will give us greater comfort, safety, certainty and stability. The College will now need to review its current provision in relation to its continued online teaching and learning programs, pedagogy for all students and the assessment programs, particularly in relation to our HSC candidates.

St Pius X College HSC Students and Parents

At the College we are very aware of the stress and anxiety that HSC students are facing, and we will modify the HSC assessment program carefully.

On Wednesday evening, 11 August at 6.30pm, we will hold an Information Evening for all HSC students and parents to outline as much as we can about the remainder of Term 3 for Year 12 and the details of assessment. The message I wish to convey to our Year 12 and HSC Accelerant students is that all the hard work they are doing will be valuable for their final HSC examinations. The Government is committed to the HSC as written examinations. Therefore it is important that your learning continues and you prepare for these HSC examinations. The teachers and staff of our HSC students want to support you in every way, and I encourage students and parents to continue this outstanding partnership in 2021.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Couani', with a small dot at the end.

John Couani
Principal