



16/09/2021

Dear Parent/Carer

This year is moving quickly with students having to remain strong to continue their learning but at the same time navigate the uncertainties of the world around them.

There have been some announcements made recently about Higher School Certificate examinations due to the continued complications of Covid-19.

### **Important Dates**

- HSC examinations commence on **9 November**.
- HSC results will be released to students from **6am on the 24 January**.
- ATARs will be released by UAC on **20 January**.

### **For students in Year 12 who have tertiary aspirations:**

- Universities are working to adjust their admissions processes, including with UAC for the calculation of the ATAR (it is great that some students have already been accepted with early entry schemes)

### **General Information - Year 11 and Year 12**

The examinations will still be held onsite at Oberon High School. Once we get closer to the date there will be more specific information distributed to students about day to day organisation.

With examinations not starting until the middle of Term 4 senior students will remain onsite for a longer period of time. The Department is expecting that each school has a program that will assist in preparing students for the Higher School Certificate examinations and ensure that practical components of courses are completed.

### **Term 4 will look like this!**

| <b>Week in Term 4</b> | <b>Starting Date of the Week</b> | <b>Notes</b>   |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Week 1                | 5 October                        | All senior students return to school and follow normal timetable   |
| Week 2                | 11 October                       | All senior students continue to follow their normal timetable  |
| Week 3                | 18 October                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All senior students continue to follow their normal timetable</li><li>• Year 12 will have their dress up week</li><li>• Year 12 will have their final BBQ organised by Year 11 on Friday morning</li></ul> |

|        |            |   |
|--------|------------|---|
| Week 4 | 25 October | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All senior students continue to follow their normal timetable (Monday only)</li> <li>• Year 12 have their final assembly (Tuesday 26 October)</li> <li>• Year 11 and Year 12 commence pre-HSC study at home (Tuesday 26 October)</li> <li>• Year 12 students who do not have any examinations can sign out (Tuesday 26 October)</li> </ul> |
| Week 5 | 1 November | All senior students are studying at home. The school is open to senior students who organise with their teacher(s) to come in to complete revision  |
| Week 6 | 8 November | HSC examinations commence this week on 9 November. Students need to check their individual timetable.   |

### **Complication with Extension of Examination Date – Year 11**

Higher School Certificate examinations starting on 9 November will cross over with our annual rollover. This means that current Year 11 students will be completing examinations whilst we have already commenced our new school year. How this potentially impacts each student will depend on their subject pattern:

- Year 11 students who have no Higher School Certificate examinations will commence their new cycle of subjects on 8 November. They will join their new classes immediately upon rollover.
- Year 11 students who have Higher School Certificate examinations must return to school and join their new classes immediately after their last examination. However note the following:

We are not closing the door to students who wish to join their new classes for short stints between their examinations. Students will often have significant periods of time between examinations and not commit to study each day due to the long gap. We see this as being a perfect opportunity to stay engaged with school and their new subject material. We would expect that students will take advantage of this as in the long term it will benefit them. Catching up several weeks of course work after returning later, will itself be extremely daunting and stressful.

We will be operating tutorial style lessons on the Wednesday of Week 9, 10 and 11 after Higher School Certificate examinations have finished. This will add around an extra week of learning back into the Term 4 schedule. It will be essential that every student takes these opportunities.

At the moment this issue is being discussed with NESAs. There are a number of schools operating a compressed curriculum and this issue is endemic to all those schools. It is an unfortunate byproduct of the changes to manage the Covid-19 problem.

### **Post School Celebrations - Year 12**

When we spoke to Year 12 recently we had to deliver a non-committal message as we just do not know what position we will be in during Term 4. The level that our school is placed on during Term 4 will dictate the type of activity we can organise for the traditional morning BBQ (organised by Year 11), Year 12 final assembly and Graduation.

There has been little said about these events as the Higher School Certificate examinations have been the primary focus. It is unlikely that we will have much communicated to us until early Term 4 in regard to these events.

We have moved the graduation date to 3 December. The RSL will support us as usual and do their best to accommodate our needs if we can hold this event. Hopefully holding it after examinations are finished we can improve the chances of other people coming. We have also scheduled dates for the BBQ and final assembly with the hope we can run them.

We explained to students that we may be organising events at short notice. We also explained that the level we are on at the time will dictate who can attend events and how they are planned.

Unfortunately, it is wait and see for the moment.

Regards



Craig Luccarda

Principal

## **HSC Examination Protocols as they Stand**

Comprehensive COVID-safe exam protocols supported by NSW Health have been provided to schools.

- mandatory face masks for students and staff, indoors and outdoors
- check-in and health screening protocols for students and staff
- physical distancing between students and staff at all times
- minimising mingling of student groups
- keeping exam group sizes as small as possible
- desks spaced a minimum of 1.5 metres apart and exam rooms well ventilated
- hygiene marshals and regular cleaning of exam rooms.

### **Before exams start**

**Students with a known illness**, like hay fever, that have similar symptoms to the flu must:

- get a medical certificate from their doctor
- give their school a copy of the certificate.

This allows students with existing conditions to meet exam day protocols without requiring a negative COVID test.

Students who are unable to attend an exam due to **international or state border closures** should contact [overseas@nesa.nsw.edu.au](mailto:overseas@nesa.nsw.edu.au) or call (02) 9367 8183.

### **On exam day**

To protect everyone involved in the HSC exams, students, exam staff and markers will be regularly reminded to:

- stay at home and get tested if they have symptoms
- regularly wash their hands
- cover coughs and sneezes
- avoiding touching their face.

Students or exam staff with **flu-like symptoms or who have been advised to isolate by NSW Health** on the day of an exam must:

- not attend the exam
- contact their school/manager immediately
- get tested.

**Before entering the exam room**, students will be asked to confirm they do not have any flu-like symptoms and are not required by NSW Health to self-isolate.

Schools are to make arrangements to return students home if they become unwell at an exam.