



Penola
CATHOLIC COLLEGE
EST. 1995

4th May, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians of Year 12 Students,

I hope that the transition to remote learning has been relatively smooth for you all. Firstly I do apologise for the delay in getting some further information to you, I have been waiting on the VCAA to provide further information on dates and we now have some additional information that we can provide for you.

The Victorian Government has announced the following adjustments to the delivery of the VCE:

- The GAT test will move from June to October or November.
- End-of-year exams will be postponed until at least December.
- School-based assessment tasks will be reduced where possible to relieve some pressure on students as they move to remote and flexible learning arrangements.
- Universities will be asked to delay the start of the 2021 university year to account for impacts of corona virus on senior secondary students. VCAL students will have more time to complete their courses and this will be consistent with the revised dates for the VCE.

The VCAA has been asked to consider a compressed end-of year exam schedule in recognition of the disruption caused by the pandemic. The VCAA have informed us that this exam schedule will be provided to schools in late May.

The VCAA provided advice last week about which Unit 3 school-based assessments can be completed remotely, and those needing to be completed on site in recognition of their practical nature and the facilities required for an authentic assessment. On-site assessments will need to be prioritised with appropriate timetabling and arrangements to ensure adherence to social distancing measures. These can be found below.

Year 12 Practical Assessments (Students coming onsite)

Food Studies -	Wednesday	10 June (9 students in each kitchen)
Studio Arts –	Monday	11 May, 3.00p.m. - 5.00pm. (6 students)
	Thursday	14 May, 3.00p.m. - 5.00pm. (7 students)
	Monday	18 May, 3.00p.m. - 5.00pm. (5 students)
	Thursday	21 May, 3.00p.m. - 5.00pm. (7 students)
Visual Communication & Design	Thursday	14 May, 11.00a.m. – 1.00p.m (7 students)
	Thursday	21 May, 11.00a.m. – 1.00p.m (6 students)
VET Engineering -	Tuesday	12 May, 1.00p.m. – 5.00p.m. (7 Students)
	Wednesday	13 May, 1.00p.m. – 5.00p.m. (6 Students)
	Tuesday	19 May, 1.00p.m. – 5.00p.m. (7 Students)
	Wednesday	20 May 1.00p.m. – 5.00p.m. (6 Students)

T +61 3 9301 2777
F +61 3 9301 2770
E principal@penola.vic.edu.au

Po Box 637, Glenroy,
Victoria, Australia, 3046

Junior Campus (Years 7-8)
35 William Street,
Glenroy, Victoria,
Australia, 3046

Senior Campus (Years 9-12)
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Please be aware that assessments (SACs) will continue as planned during this time, it may vary to what was planned but will be completed online or as a research task. Also please note if a SAC is missed, the expectation is that the student will contact Ms Joanne Barton (Senior Programs Coordinator) and your teacher and fill in an electronic Assessment Task Absence form. The link for the electronic version is attached. Along with this document you will need to provide a medical certificate and email this through to Ms Joanne Barton (jbarton@penola.vic.edu.au) as well.

Given the change to conducting assessments remotely for all Unit 3 assessment all students are required to acknowledge a declaration, stating: - 'I declare that all resource materials and assistance used have been acknowledged and that all unacknowledged work is my own'.

We will ask students to submit the declaration with their school-based assessment work, through MyPenola, our learning management system. We will provide students with clear written details of the school's rules, the VCAA rules and the procedures and authentication requirements relating to school-based assessment. In particular, we would like to highlight to students the rule that states 'students must not cheat or assist other students to cheat, including taking any action that gives or attempts to give them or another student an unfair advantage'.

As a result of these changes to assessment, students will only initially receive an indication of their level of performance as High, Medium or Low until moderation has taken place. Moderation allows for teachers to compare their marking with others but also check the authenticity of the work that has been presented. This enables potential cases of plagiarism and cheating to be identified and investigated. Once moderation has been completed numerical scores will be released to students regarding their school assessed coursework.

VCE Unit 4 - The VCAA have reviewed all VCE Study Designs, with a particular focus on Unit 4, to reduce, where possible, school-based assessment tasks to relieve some pressure on students as they transition to remote and flexible learning arrangements. This review will include the small number of studies where the assessment item is across both Unit 3 and Unit 4, as there may need to be adjustment to both Units to adequately account for the disruption. A review of, and reasonable adjustment in, content and assessment study by study ensures genuine relief for students while maintaining the integrity of the individual Study Design and the certificate. The broad aims and intentions of the studies are still achieved and can be assessed fairly and accurately, while recognising that to be fair to this year's students, some reduction in workload is required. More information can be found by clicking this [link](#).

VCAL - There will be no change to VCAL content or assessment, except in relation to the mandatory VET requirements. The VET requirement for VCAL students remains the same as in previous years. At the Intermediate and Senior VCAL levels, students must complete a minimum of 90 hours of units of competency to meet the Industry Specific Skills (ISS) Strand. Foundation VCAL students have the additional option of completing selected VCE units to meet the ISS Strand requirement. We will be reviewing the VET requirements of all students enrolled in the VCAL program.

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Wellbeing Day – Friday 15 May.

At our Executive meeting last week we decided to have a wellbeing day on Friday 15 May to give both staff and students a reprieve from screens! This will be a mid-term break to allow staff, students and families time to reflect on what they have achieved to date and prepare for what lies ahead. There will be no classes held on this day and it is my intention to shut the school so that all can take a well-earned break.

In conversations that I have been having with a number of staff, they have commented on having sore eyes and headaches which they have attributed to the increase in screen time required of them with remote learning. Parents have also made comment about their concerns regarding the amount of time that their son or daughter is spending on their screens.

As previously mentioned, if you are feeling heightened anxiety as these events are unfolding Kids Help Line at <https://kidshelpline.com.au/> and/or Headspace at <https://headspace.org.au/> are excellent sites to visit for young people. I would also encourage you to talk through this with your parents, otherwise you are welcome to reach out to myself, your homeroom teacher, Year Level Coordinators or the College Counsellors. At this time continue to stay connected to your friends via social media platforms.

I wish you all the best throughout this time, if you have any questions or need to apply for special provision please make sure you reach out.

Regards

Chris Caldwell

Principal

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