



9 April 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Over the past couple of weeks, we all have faced challenges and frustrations with the development of the coronavirus pandemic that has affected us all. We would like to say thank you for all that you have been doing in supporting your daughter or son's VCE program throughout this time. I would like to assure you that we have been further developing our learning platform, Canvas, to be able to deliver remote and flexible learning which will provide a learning experience to achieve the best outcomes for our learners.

On April 7th, the Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority (VCAA) indicated more clearly how changes to the education system will be affecting our students and the way that Saint Ignatius College will be delivering and assessing students undertaking their VCE.

The VCAA has indicated that there are likely to be some changes to the assessment and teaching as follows:

- 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 coronavirus on senior secondary students.

Further details about these changes, such as dates and arrangements, will be forthcoming and communicated to families as soon as we have more guidance on what they entail.

From the start of Term Two all students are being asked not to attend the College and will undertake remote and flexible learning and assessments via the Canvas platform. Students will need to make sure that they have accessed subject or class Announcements in Canvas and are undertaking their remote and flexible learning lessons as per their allotted timetable. Those students of essential workers who need to attend the College will be supervised while they undertake the same remote and flexible learning lessons that have been provided for all students learning from home. A separate email message with regard to how such supervision is to be conducted will be forwarded to parents and guardians by the Principal.

Students will need to access their remote and flexible learning lessons via Canvas at the times that correspond with their current timetable. They will need to make sure that they are prepared to complete the work that is provided and that they are able to submit work as

required. Please help to ensure that they are in an environment that is conducive to good learning where they will experience minimal distractions and disturbances. If there is a problem with regard to accessing the internet and/or subsequently Canvas, the College needs to be made aware so assistance and direction can be provided. The address to direct such technical queries is as follows:

[itsupport@ignatius.vic.edu.au](mailto:itsupport@ignatius.vic.edu.au) or alternatively, parents and guardians could phone the College on 5251 1136 between 9am and 4pm Monday to Friday to seek clarification or support.

School Assessed Coursework (SACs) and School Assessed Tasks (SATs) play a vital role in evaluating VCE students understanding of the outcomes being delivered. They form one of the bases for the calculations of VCE study scores and ATAR scores. During this period of remote and flexible learning, these assessments may take on different forms including shorter more formative tasks as well as specified work able to demonstrate understanding of the completion of SAC/SATs submitted via the Canvas system.

The first two weeks of Term 2, April 15<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, will be **assessment free weeks** to allow students and staff to focus exclusively on remote and flexible learning procedures. A new set of assessment and task dates will be issued by the VCE Coordinator for Term 2 to ensure that students understand when assessments will take place. Remote student assessments in Unit 3 subjects with multiple classes, such as Further Mathematics, will have their assessments scheduled in special lessons arranged on Fridays to allow the whole subject group to undertake assessment at one time. This will enable these teachers to authenticate student work and provide validation to the assessments. Groups that have only one class will undertake their assessments as per their current timetable.

During assessment sessions, students will be asked to log into their subject Canvas page five minutes before the delivery of any assessment to ensure attendance can be validated. The task will then be opened to the students to access and must be completed in the allocated time.

If a student is unable to undertake the assessment due to technical difficulties or illness an alternative time may be offered to the student on the presentation of a Statutory Declaration or medical certificate for the date of the task. This is in line with current College practices outlined in the Senior Pathways Handbook found on the College's website. Any such correspondence should be provided in the first instance to the subject teacher and then forwarded to the VCE Coordinator.

We would again like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support in your daughter or son's education during these challenging times, as we work together to continue to provide an engaging and enriching learning experience for all our students.

Should you have specific questions regarding any matter concerning the VCE and its delivery at the College, please do not hesitate to contact me via the email address below.

Yours faithfully,



**Michael Brown**  
VCE Coordinator  
brownm2@ignatius.vic.edu.au



**Mrs Annette Chidzey**  
Deputy Principal (Learning & Teaching)