



St Marys Senior High School

Kalang Avenue, St Marys NSW 2760
P.O. Box 1053, St Marys 1790

Phone (02) 9623 8333
Facsimile (02) 9833 1304

Dear Students, Parents and Caregivers,

I apologise for the length of our letters. We are attempting to keep you informed but it the pace of change is hectic, as is our learning on remote teaching. I will also attempt to address some areas in which our community has requested greater clarity.

Students who need to attend school

Schools will remain open to support parents and students at this stage. Online learning lessons will be provided to students for the remainder of Term 1. This means that there are no “traditional lessons” where a teacher is teaching a class as class teachers will be working with their timetabled remote learning at this time. Students who attend school will continue to be supervised in the Learning Centre and library with social distancing guidelines implemented.

The move to remote learning has occurred for all students across the state in all years including Year 12. We do not know how long this will continue for and we are required to follow the advice from NSW Health.

The use of the attendance code “*Flexible*” will not affect students who are applying for early entrance to university, scholarships or employers as this code does not affect their attendance percentage. It simply means students are engaged in learning in a flexible environment. The same code is being used across the state.

Staffing Update

Following advice from the Department of Education, our school will be moving to flexible work arrangements starting next week, 30 March 2020. Staff will be provided with the option to work from home when they not required to be on site. We have developed a timetable to facilitate these work arrangements in our context. Staff will continue with their normal scheduled lessons and can still be contacted. Nothing has changed in regards to their working hours, they are simply working from a different location. Some staff have chosen to continue to work from our site, the office remains opens and the Senior Executive Team will be on site.

Faculty/Team Roster

Week 10 B	Faculty/Team on site
Monday	Maths/Lote/Engagement Team
Tuesday	English/Computing
Wednesday	Science/HSIE
Thursday	Commercial Studies/Learning and Wellbeing
Friday	TAS/PDHPE, CPA



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Week 11 A	Faculty/Team on site
Monday	Maths/Lote/Engagement Team
Tuesday	English/Computing/CPA
Wednesday	Science/HSIE
Thursday	Commercial Studies/Learning and Wellbeing/TASPDHPE

Assessment at SMSHS

Our assessment policy remains unchanged. This will ensure the integrity of school based assessment as required by the NSW Educational Standards Authority (NESA) and promote equity and fairness for all students during difficult times. NESA has reinforced this approach following their media release this week. NESA will be providing further information regarding the HSC next week, specifically in relation to VET work placements, Major Works and Group Performances. NESA has made it clear that the HSC is continuing. If there are any changes in HSC requirements we will provide an update to our students.

If you have any questions in regards to assessment, please feel free to contact one of our Deputy Principals; Year 11 Leah Havord (leah.havord@det.nsw.edu.au) and Year 12 Danielle Ervine (danielle.ervine@det.nsw.edu.au) on 9623-8333.

For up to date advice about the 2020 HSC visit the NESA COVID-19 advice page: <https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/about/news/novel-coronavirus>

Access to Learning

Many of our students have access to their own devices to access online learning platforms. However, for a variety of reasons we are aware that some students may not have a device or internet access. If a student does not have access to either a device or the internet can you please email the school, stmaryssen-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au or make phone contact, 9623-8333 (if you have not done so already) outlining the barriers to online learning to allow our staff to follow up with possible solutions. Matt and Bronwyn have been following this up with our students. It may be that there are three children in the family and two laptops and we can help out if this is the case. The Department of Education is attempting to provide solutions to Internet access and we are hoping for a delivery of dongles soon to support students. We are also able to provide packages containing hard copies of student work. This can be collected or posted home. Class teachers need to be contacted for hard copies of packages.

Remote learning

This type of learning is new to all of us, so we need to be flexible, understanding and supportive of our students. As a school staff, we are also learning fast and looking at



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new ways that we can remain connected with our students and support them to continue their learning remotely. We will continue to tweak how we do things as needed. Students should let their class teachers know if there are any concerns, if they feel like they are falling behind or think they may need additional support from the Learning and Support Team.

Contacts for support to be utilised during business hours

Issue	Best point of contact	Email address
Library resources including borrowing	Kerri-Anne Brown	Kerri-Anne.Brown@det.nsw.edu.au
Technology issues/advice	Matt Topp	Matthew.Topp@det.nsw.edu.au
Wellbeing concerns	Melissa Jacka	MELISSA.JACKA@det.nsw.edu.au
Year 12 wellbeing concerns	A-G: Mitchell Baker H-O: Lyn Tuckwell P-Z: Jesse Vassalo	mitchell.baker57@det.nsw.edu.au LYNETTE.TUCKWELL@det.nsw.edu.au jesse.vassallo2@det.nsw.edu.au
Year 11 wellbeing concerns	A-G: Nicola Preston H-O: Luigi Serra P-Z: Tim Weston	nicola.preston1@det.nsw.edu.au LUIGI.SERRA@det.nsw.edu.au Tim.WESTON4@det.nsw.edu.au
Counselling service	Aimee Tang Megan Farrell	0417 228 192
Careers	Lyn Tuckwell	LYNETTE.TUCKWELL@det.nsw.edu.au
Year 12 Deputy Principal	Danielle Ervine	DANIELLE.ERVINE@det.nsw.edu.au
Year 11 Deputy Principal	Leah Havord	LEAH.HAVORD@det.nsw.edu.au
Principal	Sally Smithard	SALLY.M.SMITHARD@det.nsw.edu.au
All other enquiries can be directed to the school email address.	St Marys Senior High School	stmaryssen-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

The NSW Department of Education will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and provide students, parents and caregivers with updated information about the virus and its impact. I will provide further updates regarding events for students of St Marys Senior High School as the situation progresses.

On behalf of the staff of St Marys Senior High School, I wish you all good health and extend our good wishes to your extended family.

Yours sincerely,

Sally Smithard
Principal
St Marys Senior High School
27 March, 2020