



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,

This term has certainly felt longer than the days on the calendar for us all and the Easter break will hopefully provide some time for our community to reset, ready for Term Two. At this stage it appears that we will be continuing with the same learning arrangements in Term Two where most students will work from home.

At this stage schools will remain open to support parents and students who are required to attend school. Students who attend school will continue to be supervised in the library with social distancing guidelines implemented.

Following advice from the Department of Education, flexible working arrangements will continue for staff. Staff will be provided with the option to work from home when they not required to be on site.

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 announced that the mandatory group performance exam in Drama and the mandatory ensemble performance exam in Music Extension have been **cancelled for 2020**. Other performance exams will be modified if they breach mandatory social distancing requirements. Class teachers will go over what this means for students affected in greater detail. In addition, NESA has also announced that students are no longer required to undertake NESA-mandated VET work placements.

As I am writing this letter, NESA are currently meeting to discuss Major Work HSC requirements in other subjects.

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>

This week all students received via a Year 11 and a Year 12 Google Classroom an amended assessment booklet for Term 2, weeks 1-5. Students have been asked to acknowledge receipt of this booklet.

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.

Our Head Teacher Learning and Wellbeing, Melissa Jacka is in the process of putting together the data from a student survey on remote learning which will provide feedback to us on how we can better support all students whilst ensuring our staff can manage the workload demands of this new learning. This survey will assist us in planning for Term 2. Although the Secretary of the NSW Department of Education has stated that remote learning cannot be an a la carte menu, it may allow us to make some changes that will benefit everyone.



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

We are continuing to plan for the Year 12 Graduation and Formal to proceed as planned, however, the timeframes for payment may change. Further information related to these events will come out next term via the Year 12 Google Classroom, Facebook and Skoolbag.

I have also included the support contacts from my previous letter to allow our community to make contact with the most appropriate staff member.

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 over the Easter break.

Yours sincerely,

Sally Smithard
Principal
St Marys Senior High School
9 April 2020