

6 September 2021

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Families,

Traditionally next week, the final week of Term 3 in Year 12, is one of celebration and anticipation. Students and schools would normally be in the midst of preparations for their rite of passage events and I am saddened that this is not the case this year.

To our Year 12 students, we understand this is not the final months of schooling you had planned, and that you and your family are disappointed that the celebration of Graduation and Formals will be very different than hoped. We recognise learning from home was not the preparation for the HSC that you had expected. We also appreciate that you, your family and teachers all desire certainty and clarity on what the coming weeks and months will look like for you.

I would like to offer what clarity we can at this point in time and ask that you understand there is much that has not been addressed or confirmed by NSW Health or New South Wales Education Standards Authority (NESA).

We know that the current Stay at Home Order is in place until Friday, 10 September and will not know if this will be extended or lifted until later this week. What we do know is, if and when the Stay at Home Order is lifted, schools will return to Level 3 restrictions which allows for all students and staff to be at school for face-to-face learning.

We understand that HSC exams will commence on Tuesday, 9 November and that the timetable and details regarding the exams will be made available sometime in September. This will be communicated as soon as it is available.

Please be assured that schools will celebrate and recognise the achievements of their Year 12 students. Preparations are underway for several different scenarios for graduations and formals. Again, we understand these events may not be as originally planned, however schools are determined that these events will still be joyful celebrations of achievement, connection and community.

I am disheartened that we are unable to provide more certainty or detail at this point in time as I am aware that this uncertainty causes distress to many of our students and their families. I wish to assure you that the Catholic Schools Office and your school will communicate with you as soon as we have confirmed information.

I continue to be inspired and amazed by the commitment our students and teachers have shown over the last weeks to the continuity of their education. Students have clearly demonstrated their resilience, flexibility and adaptability. We continue to hold each and every Year 12 student in our prayers.

Yours sincerely,



Sally Towns
Director of Catholic Schools