



Covid-19 Update 20 August- Online Learning

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to thank you for the way our students have embraced and engaged with online learning over the past week. I realise that this may not be the ideal learning environment for many of our students and their families who are juggling working from home with overseeing the online learning of their children. However, the attendance of our students in the online conferences this week has been a testament to their ability to transition to online learning. We do understand that there are a number of families who are experiencing issues with their internet connectivity. If this is the case for your family, please contact your student's Pastoral Leader so that we can best support their learning.

At this stage the lockdown period for the ACT is due to end at **5pm Thursday 2 September**.

Please continue to monitor the ACT Covid-19 website for the most up to date information in relation to restrictions and Covid-19 exposure locations/sites <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/>. For those families living in regional NSW, please also consult the NSW website <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>.

Adjustments to the Online Learning Timetable

From **Wednesday 25 August (Day 1)** the College will move to Phase Two of our Online Learning Plan. This will involve **no Teams conferences** during Period 6 lesson each day. Period 6 will now become an opportunity for:

- **Individual learning** and completion of 'product' tasks for your teachers
- Completion of assessment tasks
- Follow up with teachers via email
- Reviewing lessons, recordings, tasks
- Wellbeing breaks and physical exercise

This is a graduated and measured shift away from 'live conferences' towards 'independent learning'.

For Year 11 and 12 students, assessment tasks scheduled for Period 6 will remain in place unless you are formally notified by your teacher that the timing has changed.

Essential worker student supervision

Supervision continues to be available for students of **essential workers only**. Students will be supervised while they access their learning online with the other members of their classes, including their teachers, who are at home. Students will need to wear a mask while they are on site. The registration process for those students who need to attend school during the Stay-at-Home orders is available on Daranet. The link for the registration to attend each day can be found [HERE](#).

Assessment

Now that our College has received some initial advice from the Board of Senior Secondary

Studies (BSSS), please consider the following points regarding the delivery of assessment in Years 7 – 12 at this time:

- Schools in the ACT are still required to facilitate the assessment of student learning
- Schools are also required to adapt the assessment program and task types to be deliverable in this new context

If changes to assessment task types, schedule or conditions are required:

- In Years 11 and 12, students will be notified and given the opportunity (within a specified timeframe) to respond to the proposed change in writing, before the change is implemented.
- In Years 7 – 12, the semester outline and task instructions made available on Daranet will be updated.

There will be a need to progressively make updates to assessment as the broader situation unfolds and not all updates will be made instantly.

Any assessment tasks that students have already completed will not have changes made to their weightings in retrospect.

If students are unable to complete an assessment item by the due date due to circumstances beyond their control, they can still request an extension using the forms available via the Teaching and Learning Tile in Daranet. In reviewing these applications, staff will be sensitive of the current context. We are conscious that many students who are unwell may not be able to visit a health care professional to obtain a medical certificate at this time to attach to their extension request. In this case a letter from a parent/guardian will be accepted as documentary evidence of illness to support the extension request. These forms can be completed and submitted via email to:

- Years 7 – 10: The class teacher
- Years 11 and 12: The Subject Coordinator

We acknowledge the challenges that students face in completing assessment from home and our teachers will be working hard to support all learners in demonstrating their skills and knowledge and to develop flexible approaches to assessing student progress.

AST Tests

An email was sent this afternoon to all Year 12 students and their families alerting them to the decision made by the ACT BSSS to reschedule the AST Tests to **Tuesday 12 October** and **Wednesday 13 October** due to the current lockdown. Year 12 students (T and A) will now be expected in their online classes on the dates the tests were originally scheduled, Tuesday 31 August and Wednesday 1 September.

Financial Support

Families who are experiencing changed financial circumstances due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, are encouraged to contact the College Business Manager, Hugh Boulter, to discuss support that may be available to you. He can be contacted via email on hugh.boulter@daramalan.act.edu.au.

As always, should you have any concerns please contact your student's pastoral leader, via email, in the first instance. Their contacts can be found on Daranet at [Pastoral Contact details](#). Likewise, if you are experiencing internet issues please email the Pastoral Leader so that we can look at how best to support your student in their learning.

Please continue to keep safe and well during these uncertain times.

Best wishes
Rachel Davies
Principal
20 August 2021