

3 August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers and Year 12 Students

Re: HSC Trial Examinations/Alternative Tasks in response to COVID-19

As you know, the NSW Government recently announced a return to face-to-face learning for Year 12 on 16 August. Thank you for your patience as we have considered what this means for our school community and in particular, the HSC Trial examinations.

This year, NESA has allowed schools to adjust their assessment program in response to COVID-19. In response to this and the feedback received from the community, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta has asked its schools to use **alternatives to traditional HSC Trial examinations to finalise students' school-based assessment marks. Other opportunities for exam practise will be provided as it becomes safe to do so in our communities.**

At St John Paul II Catholic College our approach will be to provide an alternative task for each subject to the currently scheduled HSC Trial examinations. More details about these alternative assessments commencing on 23 August will be provided very shortly. The assessments will be fair and rigorous. Significant differences in student performance will be monitored and addressed appropriately.

The current health order allows Year 12 students to continue to access their school to work on major works, particularly if they require the use of specialist equipment. Of course, all COVID-19 safety protocols need to be adhered to, including the wearing of masks. We are also continuing to seek more information about matters including vaccinations for students and staff as well as rapid antigen testing.

NESA has also reminded students that the new COVID-19 Special Consideration Program is available for students experiencing significant COVID-related disruption or disadvantage while preparing for language (oral) and performance exams and working on their major projects.

It's really important that we all continue to support student wellbeing at this time. I want to take this opportunity to remind you that counselling support is available to all our students. If your child could benefit from this service, please contact the school directly to make an appointment.

Thanks again for your support as we continue to work together to respond to COVID-19. We're so proud of the Class of 2021 and will continue to keep you updated.

Regards



Jim Fanning
Principal



Peter Regan
Assistant Principal – Stage 6