



Letter No 11 - Covid-19 Update

13 August 2021

Dear St Leo's Community,

Good afternoon. I hope everyone is well and looking forward to the weekend.

A quick update on Mr Lane's situation. His wife is now out of ICU but under very close monitoring of her ongoing condition. The unborn baby is doing OK as well. Please keep Mr Lane and his family in our prayers.

This week I was able to view the entries from our students for the *CAPA Lockdown Talent Show*. **There were over 80 students who submitted entries.** The entries ranged from home made jewellery, dancing, videography as well as singing and musical items. Mr Tavernese will announce the winners this coming week.



Timetable for Weeks 6-7 Term III

I trust your young person was able to get some down time last Wednesday on the Student Free Day. It was also an opportunity for some catch up work by some students.

Next week sees the start of Week 6 of Term III. The halfway mark of the Term! Here is the updated timetable for the next two weeks: [WEEK 6-7 Term 3 TIMETABLE](#).



Assessments & Reporting

Our **Year 12** students commence their Home Based Alternative Assessment Tasks on Wednesday. These Alternative Tasks go for a two week period.

Express Post parcels with papers and a care pack were sent to all Year 12 students on Wednesday, so most should have received them by today. If you have not, please advise Mrs Todd asap.

The **Year 11** students will follow a similar style of alternative tasks for their End of Preliminary assessments at the end of Week 9 and Week 10.

Years 10 to Intake 2021 (Year 7) continue with their Home Based Learning and are undergoing modified assessment tasks that will align with their Term IV Assessment Tasks to ensure that continuity and learning continues whether the delivery of the curriculum is home based or face to face.

We are also modifying our **Term III Interim Reports**. These "snapshot" style reports **currently** gauge learning, in regards to

- Commitment to achieving personal best
- Conduct behaviour
- Constructive involvement in classwork
- Level of organisation

It makes little sense to continue with this current report in its present format. *Instead*, students will be assessed on criteria based on our Home Based Learning model. All parents/carers will receive Interim Reports for students in Years 11 - Intake 2021 (Year 7) in **Week 10** of this Term.

I would particularly like to thank the staff for all the preparation work they completed last Wednesday (Student Free Day) in order to maximise the learning of our young people.



Parent Meetings via Zoom - Wed 18 Aug

Following on from our survey and following feedback a couple of weeks ago, I would like to invite you (parents/carers and students) to a stage-based Zoom evening this Wednesday (18 August). This will give an opportunity for a Year group specific conversation around any Home Based Learning issues.

Wednesday, 18 August:

- Stage 4 (Intake 2021 and Year 8) - 7.00pm
- Stage 5 (Year 9 & 10) - 7.30pm
- Stage 6 - (Year 11 & 12) - 8.00pm

***** Note: Zoom link invitations will be sent on Wednesday morning.**

I will give a brief overview of Term III and various strategies. Then the session will be conducted by a member of the College Leadership Team for general discussion and questions.

Please come to this meeting with what is working for you and your young person so we can all assist each other as we move through this present situation.

Interested in a paid HSC Supervisor position?

The HSC runs from 19 October to 12 November. See the link here for further information. If you wish to apply and meet the criteria, please either complete the form [in the link](#) or contact the College on 9487 3555.



Year 12 Update

In addition to the guidelines around these upcoming Alternative Assessments (sent home in the past few days in your *Information & Care Packs*) and NESA pushing back the start of the HSC Exams, NESA is now permitting teachers to submit marks for the following HSC Performances and Language oral exams: *Dance Core Performance; Dance Core Composition; Dance Major Study Performance; Dance Major Study Composition; Dance*





Major Study Dance and Technology; Drama Group Performance; Drama Individual Project: performance; Music Performance (all courses); Music Viva Voce (Music 1); Sight singing (Music 2) and Languages Speaking Skills (all courses).

To ensure equity, teachers' marks will be moderated by NESAs against the externally marked components of the course.

After speaking with some of the students, some are naturally disappointed that they are unable to perform their various pieces (Music, Drama and Dance) but equally so some students are very satisfied with this decision and course of action.

Reminder: Year 12 Study Sessions

A reminder that Year 12 have the opportunity to attend group study sessions via Zoom from 2.40- 3.30pm each Monday and Wednesday. Staff from a variety of faculty areas have offered to be available to help students if they have any questions.



College Photos - Update

The offices of our photographers, MSP are currently closed due to lockdown orders so they are unable to collate and send out photos at this time. Once their office reopens, they will be in contact to advise when photos will be delivered to families. At this stage, we are unable to confirm when or if co-curricular photos will be able to take place but will advise you as soon as we know more.



Reminder: Student Wellbeing

A reminder that students are being surveyed regularly in order to gauge their wellbeing and identify any mental health concerns. We have moved to surveying students **weekly** on Tuesday mornings during their regular Zoom mentor classes.

Of course if a student is in need of pastoral help and support, they can reach out at any time to their Mentor Teacher, Learning Support Case Manager, Year Leader, College Counsellor [Mrs Anne-Marie Newham](#), or Director of Pastoral Care and Wellbeing [Mr Nathan Smith](#) at any time. Our [Wellbeing Resource Pack \(2nd Ed\)](#) has also been updated and has a large range of resources and tools that can be useful in helping maintain positive mental health.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the College should you require any help or support.



Reminder: TAFE 2022 Launchpad Digital Courses

TAFE NSW Schools Launchpad courses are virtual TAFE-delivered Vocational Education and Training (TVET) courses available for high school students as part of their HSC in 2022. One of these 20 courses can be combined with HSC study for an ATAR. Join the **Weekly Career Zoom Meeting at 2.30pm on Monday** with our Career Adviser and Pathways and Partnership Leader for [more information](#).



Reminder: School Fee Assistance

Assistance is available to families who may need help with school fees. We are very mindful that the current Covid-19 lockdown may be impacting your ability to afford school fees.

Details and the application form can be found under the Parent Hub section of our website ([click here](#)) or by contacting the CSBB *Fee Liaison Team* (at schoolfees@dbb.org.au or 9847 0728).

Please contact the *Fee Liaison Team* to discuss your circumstances and other pathways available for fee support. We look forward to being able to assist you if you require fee support during this period.

All College communications concerning Covid-19 (i.e. **Letters Nos 1-10**) are also listed on the [Remote Learning page of the College website for your reference](#).

We also wish **Mrs Kate Todd** best wishes for her becoming a Grandmother (**Oma** - German for Grandmother) yesterday to her first Grandson - Stanley!

We are very conscious of the impact this lockdown will have on our staff, students and families. We are in regular contact with Catholic Schools NSW and will keep you updated as further information is available.

Thank you for your support of our school. Our prayers are with you and please stay safe!



Tony Gleeson
Principal