BACKCHAT IN BRIEF



Dear Parents and Carers,

I have been really impressed with the level of support that parents have been providing their sons at home recently. This has been a time of rapid adjustment for us all, and your support will definitely benefit your son's learning. While this transition has been rapid for students and staff alike, we will continue to review and reform this new educational pathway.

John Fischetti (Professor of Education at Newcastle University) recently gave an informative radio interview regarding the current teacher situation within the parameters presently available. Click here to listen to his advice.

I would like to also publicly thank our hardworking staff who have ensured that work is set for all students and that they are available to provide electronic feedback.

School Day

Students need routine and following their regular school day is important. All students were provided with information regarding access codes and teaching platforms for their classes.

Students should aim to follow their regular school timetables and complete assigned work for that subject for the 55 minute lessons.

One of our main aims this week was to test all of our online platforms to ensure that they were accessible to our students. If you son is still experiencing any issues or needs to discuss any subject matters a member of each faculty is available at school each day via phone 9477 3508.

As always, further clarity on specific class matters can be attained by contacting your son's class teacher via the school email.

Year 12

Assessment Tasks have been suspended for the immediate future.

Students who are required to complete a major work for their subjects eg Design and Technology, Industrial Technology – Metal, Drama, Music should continue to complete them and their portfolio.

NESA has today notified us that they are -

- Lifting of the requirement for VET students to undertake NESA work placements
- Cancelling of mandatory group performance examinations in Drama and the mandatory ensemble performance examinations in Music Extension
- Meeting again next week to provide further advice on major projects for Visual Arts, Design and Technology, Industrial Technology, and Society and Culture.

NESA updates can be sourced from the link here.

Subjects with Depth Studies for Mathematics Extension 1, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Investigating Science are still proceeding at this stage, and these studies should continue to be completed.

As previously advised we will endeavour to complete the HSC Trial Examinations in Term 3.

All students are encouraged to regularly communicate with their teachers and submit all set work for feedback. As stated previously this is a great opportunity to develop study notes for units completed in Term 4/Term 1 and complete/submit practice questions to your teachers for feedback.

I understand that this is a challenging time for everyone involved and I have been very impressed by the resilience and commitment to their studies shown by our Year 12 cohort. I thank parents too, for your ongoing support of your sons and their teachers, which will ultimately lead to the best possible outcomes for all.

Further information is available via the NESA website here.

Year 12 - Study Skills

The first of Dr Salter's Study Skills presentations at school was cancelled, however she has created a special video series for Year 12, and it has now been released and you can access it using the link here.

In this series Dr Salter will guide you through creating a plan for the holidays – and help you deal with some of the uncertainty around your final year of school. **These videos will only be available for the next 3 weeks.** In the first weeks of Term 2 you will receive the link for the next video series. I encourage you all to access these links to support you with your study and future examination preparations.

Username: drsaltersgroup Password: videoseries1

Year 11 Assessment Tasks

NESA has advised that -

 Principals have the power to determine the number, type and weighting of tasks for Year 11 school based assessment, in line with the decision communicated last week for HSC students

A decision will be made early in Term 2, in conjunction with the Head Teachers of faculties, regarding the pending amendments to the Year 11 assessment schedules for 2020. This is with respect to the number of assessment tasks and the individual weightings of these tasks in all courses. Year 11 students that have received assessment task(s), will still be expected to submit them online. Teachers will have already advised your sons of these tasks, and the requirements for completing and submitting them online.

Year 7 – 10 Assessment Tasks

Assessment tasks for Year 7 – 10 are only to be submitted online. The teachers will advise your sons of these tasks and the requirements for completing and submitting them.

We will endeavour to ensure that the SENTRAL School and Year group calendars are updated regularly to allow parents to access due dates and monitor their sons progress towards completion and submission of these assigned tasks.

Thank you again for your emails and words of appreciation that we have been receiving over the past week. I have attached the 'ABHS Student guidelines for video conferencing'. Please take some time to review these guidelines with your son, and if you have any concerns feel free to contact the school.

Regards,

Mr Bryce Grant

Principal

ABHS STUDENT GUIDE TO VIDEO CONFERENCING

Interacting appropriately online

PARTAKE IN ONLINE LESSONS BY FOLLOWING THESE GUIDELINES



1. ATTIRE

Students must wear sports uniform or smart casual clothing that does not have inappropriate messages or images.

2. LOCATION

Video conferencing must take place in a common area such as the lounge room or kitchen.





FAMILY AND INTERRUPTIONS

Family members should be aware that a video conference is about to commence to avoid accidental interference.

CLASS ETIQUETTE

Students must stick to the topic associated with the lesson. Students must use respectful language and abide by the ABHS code of conduct. Students must not use other devices while video conferencing unless otherwise directed Students should avoid eating while conferencing





CONSEQUENCES

Failure to abide by these rules may result in continued muting during video conference sessions and parents may be contacted as per the ABHS behaviour policy.

Parents please notify the school if you do not agree with the online guidelines and wish for your son not to access these learning sessions.