



25 March 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

I thank our Community in this time of uncertainty and assure you all that we continue to work tirelessly to ensure that every child's learning continues whether it is at school or from home.

Prior to the students finishing, we trialled our online platforms – Zoom and Google Classroom – successfully. We have sent out protocols and instructions as well as details of key personnel to contact in the event that you need support.

In Term 2, we have scheduled Student Progress Meetings. The aim of these is to inform parents about their child's progress and possible strategies on how to improve or continue to consolidate. This can be easily achieved in a different format. We expect that your children's teachers can either call you over the phone, email or even if the need arises, have a Zoom interview. More information concerning this will be disseminated early next term.

I would like to clarify and correct my previous update regarding the commencement of school in Term 2.

For Term 2, staff recommence on Tuesday 14 April 2020, which is a student free day. Students recommence on Wednesday 15 April 2020. At this stage there is no clear indication as to the manner in which learning programs will be delivered. So, unless you are notified otherwise, **school will recommence for all students on Wednesday 15 April 2020**.

If, by any chance, we are going to run a home-based learning program due to a complete closure, we, along with other schools, will accommodate children who need to be at school due to parents being deemed to be **Essential Workers**.

I urge all families to take special care and to please ensure that your sons and daughters abide by the social distancing rules. Our entire Community is facing unprecedented times.

PARENT WELLBEING WEBSITE

Our parent wellbeing website Nazareth School TV has some worthwhile resources for parents to access about the many issues and concerns being raised at this challenging time.

For a special report on preparing for Home Schooling, please have a look at the information offered, where Michael Carr-Gregg goes through valuable tips and tools:

https://nazareth.vic.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-preparing-homeschooling

Valuable information can also be found regarding Coronavirus - a guide for parents

https://nazareth.vic.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-coronavirus



As a further update, please note the following:

1. All school Excursions off campus during the first four weeks of Term 2 (up until 8 May) will not be running. We will make a call on Excursions for the rest of the Term 2 when we return to school.
2. Students will return to school on Wednesday 15 April.
3. The details below are what we can give at the current moment. Please check emails during the break for further updates.
4. As per the Calendar, Student Progress Meetings will occur on Thursday 16 April. This will remain a DAY 2 so staff have time to contact parents in the afternoon (via email/telephone). Mr Maurice Di Muzio will email details to teachers for Student Progress Meetings.

EXCURSIONS/EVENTS UP UNTIL 8 MAY 2020 - NOT RUNNING

- VCE Product Design & Technology (Wood) Excursion
- VCE Top Design Excursion
- School of Excellence Lunchtime Game
- All SIS Sport
- SIS Swimming Carnival
- Yr 7 Camp
- Try a Trade Expo
- Building Bridges
- Yr 11 & 12 Careers Excursion
- Yr 8 Outdoor Education Activities Day
- SIS Public Speaking Championship
- St Elizabeth's Youth 11 Ministry Reflection Day
- House Cross-Country
- Yr 12 PE Exercise Research Excursion
- Minnie Vinnies Conference
- Conversation Corner
- Elevate Parent Session
- St Anthony's Tutoring
- Edutest Laurel and Scholarship Testing
- Aerobics Incursions

VCE ARRANGEMENTS DURING COVID-19 CRISIS

VCE specific Information

As our immediate focus is the continuity of learning, the school has a number of alternative arrangements that can be made to assist in student learning and allow students to demonstrate VCE Unit Outcomes. Including the use of online learning platforms, these may include:

- the use of a textbook to guide the individual learning program;
- allowing students extra time to complete work or an assessment task;
- rescheduling classroom activities and/or assessment tasks;
- setting a substitute task of the same type;
- using a planned task to assess more outcomes, or replace a task with a different type than originally planned;



- re-ordering of the learning program for studies with a practical component.

Assessment for Unit 1 / 2

Unit 1 / 2 Outcomes will proceed as scheduled. In order for this to occur remotely:

- Students will be emailed the Outcome at the scheduled completion time;
- Students will be given a clear due date/time to return the task via email or Google Classroom to the teacher;
- Students will be asked to complete a Statutory Declaration indicating that the work is their own work;
- All Outcomes will need to be returned to the teacher, with the form, as directed by the teacher;
- This will only apply for Unit 1 and 2 Outcomes.

Assessment for Unit 3 / 4

Through VCAA, schools have the flexibility to delay or reschedule SACs (School Assessed Coursework) and SATs (School Assessed Tasks). While it is possible to deliver some coursework online, SACs should be completed mainly in class under examination conditions and within a limited timeframe. If other arrangements are made due to current circumstances, it is most important that teachers are still able to authenticate student work. Guidelines will be developed and released when completed, based on current advice from the VCAA.

We understand parents and guardians of Unit 3 / 4 students may be anxious. We will do our utmost to minimise disruption to their learning. For students undertaking the Victorian Certificate of Education, scheduled School Assessed Coursework (SACs) require supervision in order to be completed.

Consequently, we will obtain advice from the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) to ensure that any closure or online learning period does not unduly impact VCE assessments. All schools will be working closely with the VCAA to ensure that no student is disadvantaged during this time. For the current time, students are encouraged to maintain a structured approach to their studies.

STUDENTS WITH ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS

Learning support officers will be assisting students with their online learning program using the Google Classroom and Zoom platforms. Weekly catch ups for students and their parents will be arranged to discuss learning progress and resolve difficulties that might arise. These catch up meetings will be conducted using the video conferencing platform, Zoom. Parents and students will receive a link to the Zoom catch up session via email.

Today, we include a special message from our Archbishop, the Most Reverend Peter A Comensoli, together with our own special Easter message.

I look forward to having a break with my family and hope that the times ahead are times when we can all continue to support each other, especially those less fortunate than ourselves.

God Bless

Sam Cosentino
PRINCIPAL



PRAYER LOOKING AHEAD TO EASTER

As we live these days, that are truly like none before, many people are in a place of uncertainty, fear, sorrow, isolation and suffering. It is at a time like this when we can become more aware of how blessed we are to have our faith.

As Christians, we are moving towards the most important and central feast of the year, the feast of Easter. At this time, we recall that God, out of love for us, became man, took on human flesh and suffered incredibly and died for each of us and our salvation. He then overcame the most hopeless of all situations – death, showing power over it by rising for us.

At this current time in history, the world needs us to be people of hope. The Resurrection of Jesus tells us that, in even the most hopeless of situations we find ourselves in, there is always hope in Jesus. The good news is the course of our hope is not us, nor our limited understanding or control of the situation. Our hope is in Jesus Christ.

If we imagine the hopelessness of the Apostles after learning of Jesus' death, the sorrow, grief and fear etc are hard to comprehend. On the other hand, when we move forward to Easter morning, the joy, celebration and amazement among the disciples is beyond anything we have ever experienced and God wants to share this gift of joy with humanity.

Amongst all this, the tradition tells us that Mary, the Blessed Mother of Jesus held hope. She, who knew Jesus best, believed and hoped even after His death. Her faith in Him was the source of her hope in the hardest of times seeing the death of her Son and ultimately her joy in seeing Him Risen.

We pray that all of us can be like Mary this Easter, people of hope in hard times, people of faith in hard times and people who experience the deep and true joy of the Risen Lord!
Prayers for a Blessed and Holy Easter for all the members of our Nazareth Community.