

## **From the Principal**

Dear students and families,

It was busy at the College this week and it was also great to see increasing numbers of students onsite on Wednesday, completing their assignments, catching up with their teachers, and engaging in a range of activities teachers had organised for them. Music students were definitely taking advantage of the opportunity, as I could hear them playing all day, it was fantastic to listen too. We have included a range of announcements in today's update as well as some frequently asked questions. As I speak to more students and their families about this semester, I am picking up that it is hard to discern what is normal practice for the College and what has been adjusted to cope with the COVID-19 situation. So, I hope the FAQs and other announcements help with that challenge. If not, please contact the College for clarification.

Wishing everyone a great long weekend.

Regards

Craig

PS – There could be a white rabbit about next week so watch out.

## **Frequently asked questions about this semester**

### **Why isn't the college conducting face to face learning during the last two weeks of term?**

This is normal practice and Colleges deliver fewer school days per year compared to the Primary and High School settings. This arrangement is to support the way the ACT Senior Secondary system works in the ACT and is detailed in our Enterprise Agreement. The pupil free days are used for the purposes of moderation and assessment in years 11 and 12 in the ACT.

### **What about work experience?**

The current restrictions are preventing students participating in work experience. We don't have any information at this point about when this will resume. Students seeking additional credit towards their Senior Secondary Certificate in order to leave early/or graduate this year, should talk to careers or their year coordinator about alternatives. Please note the message from the Careers team below.

### **Why isn't the college running end of semester exams?**

When the College and its teachers prepared for the remote/online learning period this term they re-negotiated assessments with students. Even though the resumption of onsite learning would have allowed tests to take place. The college would have had to expose students to yet another change

relating to their assessment and teachers would have had to do additional preparation (to create exams) to make this happen, so all subjects that normally chose to run end of semester exams chose to stick with the assessments they planned. These planned assessments were also in line with the advice the ACT BSSS has provided to Colleges and students. We have also used this time to schedule a Year 12 AST Trial, which students missed because of COVID-19 restrictions in term 1.

### **Some other Colleges are running exams, does this disadvantage students from DC?**

No. The ACT College based assessment model allows for each College site and each teacher to design assessment suitable to the curriculum delivered and its students. Ultimately the performance of DC students on assessments delivered at Dickson is what matters. The ACT AST (scaling test) which Year 12 Tertiary students sit in September of each year is the mechanism that moderates student performance across the system. The ACT College system uses a model of continuous school-based assessment over four semesters, and there are in-built safety nets for students. This includes the way course scores are calculated (80% rule), as well as access to special consideration. If a student wishes to apply for special consideration, they should talk to their year coordinator. If you want to find out more, please visit the [ACT BSSS website and look under information for students](#).

### **End of Unit Evaluation survey for students to complete**

We are after student feedback on the delivery of our units this semester. Most ACT Colleges are doing this survey and Dickson did it for the first time Semester 2 of 2019. Students completing the survey will earn themselves a chance at winning one of 5 movie passes to Dendy Cinemas.

Here is the link to the [End of Unit Evaluation](#) survey.

## **Class Changes for Semester 2**

Current classes will roll over for Semester 2. So, unless students want to make a change to their courses, they will be in the same courses next semester as they were this semester. Class changes can be made in Week 17 and 18 through making an appointment with a Year Co-ordinator on Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/ Friday each week and these appointments can be made now.

Changes can be made without appointments on Week 17 Wednesday from 9.30am – 12.30pm outside Student Wellbeing.

Please Note: Changes can only be made if there is space available in a class and if it doesn't cause an issue with your academic package.

Students looking at less than 5 classes need to complete a Less Than 5 Classes Form and have a good reason accompanied by supporting documentation.

Students changing from T to A package will need to complete an Academic Package Change form – this requires parent/guardian signature.

Semester 2 Timetables will be sent to students at the end of this Semester.

## **Year 12 Early Leavers**

If you are planning on leaving school early e.g. at the end of this semester or at the end of Term 3, please make a time to see your Year Co-ordinator asap to check you are on track to do so.

## Opportunities for additional points towards your Yr. 12 Certificate

As you are aware, due to COVID-19, Work Experience and Sport are unfortunately not an option for students wishing to gain additional points (or credit). The options for accruing additional points at the moment are:

- Enrolling in an extra subject for Semester 2.
- Volunteering R unit (through Careers) – students can bring in a letter from the organisation they volunteered with, outlining the dates, hours and activity they were involved in, as evidence of their volunteering activity.
- Attending workshops outside your normal class time is a way of accruing points, some of these will start up again in Term 3.

The Careers Team have put together 3 R unit programs for additional points. For further information on these, contact Sara Hillier in Careers.

1. Pathways R unit (0.2) Can start now, 11 hours
2. Pathways to Work and Learning R unit (0.5) Can start Semester 2, 27.5 hours
3. Volunteering R unit (0.2) or (0.5) – you can start now if you can find an organisation that will take you on, 11 hours/27.5 hours

## Important Dates

Monday 8 June	Public Holiday – Queen's Birthday
Friday 19 June	Last day of classes for Semester 1 Last day to return unexplained absence notes Last day to return Special Consideration Applications
Friday 26 June	Year 12 AST Trial
Monday 29 June	Handback Day
Friday 3 July	Semester 1 Reports emailed Last day of Term 2
Monday 20 July	First day for Semester 2 (Term 3)
Tuesday 1 & Wednesday 2 September	Year 12 AST
Friday 25 September	Last day Term 3
Monday 12 October	Start Term 4
Thursday 19 November	Last day of classes for Semester 2
Friday 20 – Tuesday 24 November	Crossline Testing period for Semester 2
Wednesday 25 November	Year 11 AST Trial
Wednesday 2 December	Year 12 Brunch and Year 12 formal
Thursday 17 December	Year 12 Graduation.

NB: Handback Day Timetable below.

## HANDBACK DAY MONDAY 29 JUNE

Time	Line
9.00 – 9.15	1
9.15 – 9.30	2
9.30 – 9.45	3
9.45 – 10.00	4
10.00 – 10.15	5
10.15 – 10.30	6
10.30 – 10.45	7
10:45 – 11:00	8

### APPEALS

Every student has the right to appeal assessment and unit grades and scores. If you are unhappy with your grade or score or grade you should speak with these people (in this order):

1. Your teacher – explain your concerns and ask for clarification of why they awarded the score/grade. If you are still not satisfied, go to step 2.
2. The faculty executive teacher - explain what you have discussed with your teacher, your concerns and ask for them to review the score or grade. If you are still not satisfied, go to step 3.
3. Assessment and Certification executive teacher – explain what your teacher and the faculty SLC discussed with you, what your concerns are and what you would like to happen. At this stage the appeal can become a formal written appeal and BSSS policy and procedures will be followed. The Assessment and Certification executive teacher will go through these procedures with you.

There is a limited period of time to appeal unit scores/grades. Please make sure that you speak with your teachers immediately if you have any concerns. Check unit scores/grades as soon as they are posted and speak to your teacher if you have any questions. All formal appeals are due by 12:00PM on Tuesday 30 June 2020. Appeals not submitted by the due date may not be heard.

## Aerosol Deodorants

Please be aware that a member of the Dickson Community has a life-threatening anaphylactic reaction to aerosol deodorants. Please ensure aerosols are not brought to school, roll-ons are acceptable if deodorant is needed.

## Links to Webinars that ran this term

1. Motivation - <https://webinar.elevatecoaching.info/parent-webinar-watch/>
2. Time Management - <https://get.elevatecoaching.info/au/webinar-watch-12-may/>
3. Smart Study - <https://get.elevatecoaching.info/au/webinar-watch-28-may/>