

## **COVID19 Update for Dickson College 24 March**

Dear Students and families,

Thank you for your support and patience so far. The purpose of this information is to clarify the current situation as it relates to students and families of Dickson College. As you may be aware the College was implementing a new semester structure in 2020 and three pupil free days in week 10 for AST trials have already been planned for. At DC we are trying to support the wellbeing of our staff while continuing with the usual learning supports that were already in place before COVID19.

### **What pupil free means**

It means that students complete set work from home if possible. It is not a holiday from college coursework. Please see the description of weeks 8, 9 & 10 and assessment information below:

### **This week (week 8)**

Students should continue to work on their assignments and other learning activities set by their teachers at home. Teachers are using this week to strengthen our online learning materials for week 9. It may be that some of our teachers may set new work for students or attempt to make contact during this time but I am not asking my teachers to do this as they will be preparing for a stronger online learning environment during week 9 and for next term if required.

### **Week 9**

Teachers will be posting new work on our existing learning platform Google classroom to ensure that students have work to continue with at home. I am expecting that students participate and engage with these learning activities with the same effort as if they were at school. It may be that during this period teachers connect with students using news tools like video conferencing using Google Hangouts, which is part of the digital backpack, or they start using tools to give video instruction and share it with students, but we will be building up to this not guaranteeing it for every class.

### **Week 10**

On Monday teachers will set new work or assessment for students to complete if this is appropriate. As mentioned above, the College had already planned for pupil free days Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of week 10 to allow for internal moderation and completion of our new Mid Semester reports, which we will be endeavouring to have out to families by the end of week 10 or prior to the start of term 2.

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## Assessment

Colleges have sought advice from the ACT BSSS and are supported in adjusting assessment relevant to each school's context. The ACT Year 11 & 12 system is extremely flexible and it is a system of ongoing school-based assessment, moderated by an external scaling test called the AST Scaling test.

## No Tests in week 9

As a result of the COVID19 situation there will be no tests/exams in week 9 or during this term. These tests will be postponed to next term. It may be that students complete end of semester tests that cover the entire semester's content. So it is important that students stay up to date with the coursework and revision, especially activities that have been posted on Google Classroom for completion.

The AST trials set down for week 9 will not go ahead. However, the AST preparation program which includes workshops for students will start for Year 12 students next term and will be online if required.

## Assignments

Students should be completing and submitting assessment to their teachers as required and as per the dates advertised on the unit outline. Teachers will be in contact with their students on how to submit items via Google Classroom. Where students require special consideration, they need to contact their year coordinator. This is our normal process but obviously we will be sensitive to those impacted directly by COVID19. **To summarise, students need to complete assignments by the due date. If there is a reason for an extension, please contact your year coordinator.**

Please be aware that this is an evolving situation and we will continue to keep you updated as new advice arrives. Students and parents are reminded to stay up to date with the latest information on COVID-19 by visiting the [ACT Health](#), the [Australian Government Department of Health](#) and the [Dickson College](#) websites.

Take care and please follow community health advice.

Regards

Craig Edwards

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