



St Mark's

ANGLICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

St Marks Drive Hillarys WA 6025
PO Box 231 Hillarys WA 6923
T: (08) 9403 1300
www.stmarks.wa.edu.au
A School of the Anglican Schools Commission Inc.

27 March, 2020

Dear Parents

We are all very proud of the positive way students have been engaging with the Distance Learning Plan. Everyone is learning new skills and being open minded as we refine this model of teaching and learning for our students, families and teachers.

There have been some questions around the topic of assessments posed to the School and we hope that this letter will help to alleviate some concerns.

The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) provides teachers with achievement standards that indicate the quality of learning students should typically demonstrate by a particular point in their schooling. These provide consistency of grades between students across the state. Staff use these as a guiding tool at the end of a unit to award grades. Whether a test or an assignment, all assessments are working towards the achievement standards.

A distance learning approach provides the opportunity, for Years 6-10 in particular, to think creatively and flexibly about ways that students can demonstrate their learning against the achievement standards.

Assessment in Years 6 – 12

- All students and parents have access to the assessment schedule in SEQTA for each subject. Due to the interruption to face-to-face teaching and moving to the Distance Learning Plan, there is likely to be changes to assessment schedules in most learning areas. You will be advised of any changes by the Head of Department or by the classroom teacher in due course.
- Over the next few weeks, each learning area will evaluate the upcoming assessments, and, with the guidance of Heads of School, the Head of Teaching and Learning and the Head of Department, devise alternate assessments that will still provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate a range of achievements, but in a style better suited to distance learning. This will look different in each learning area. Examples might include:
 - Scheduling an at-home test time with the whole cohort/class/subject and emailing (or sharing via another platform) the test and instructions. Students return the test through Turnitin or SEQTA within timed conditions, following test conditions at home.

- Postponing tests and rescheduling them for when school returns.
- Redesigning tests as take-home assessments that provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate the same knowledge, understandings and skills.

Additional information for assessment in Years 11-12

For our Year 11 and 12 students, SCSA and the Tertiary Institutions Service Centre (TISC) are important guiding bodies. Both have released messages to schools in recent days that provide us with confidence that no matter what the coming weeks bring, our senior school students will be well cared for. Specifically, SCSA states very clearly that, "Schools, students and parents should be confident that the Board of the Authority continues to work from the premise that no student should be disadvantaged."

SCSA has advised that schools should continue to provide opportunities to engage with coursework and meet course completion requirements. It has reiterated its trust in teachers and schools to make professional judgements about the achievement of students and allows for flexibility in assessing and collecting evidence of achievement.

In this situation, we believe we must focus on those things we can control. Students can certainly control their attitude towards their learning and their level of motivation to succeed, which will be matched by the effort they put into their study. It is certainly true that in the distance learning model students must take increased responsibility for their own learning, but they will be in regular contact with their teachers and support will be provided to them.

If your child is experiencing any difficulties, please contact the classroom teacher, the HR or PC Tutor or Head of Year as a first port of call.

We hope you and your family are well and stay well.

Yours sincerely



Julia McGibbon-Briggs
Head of Middle School



Kelly Nebel
Acting Head of Senior School