

Dear Parents, Carers, and Students,

Again I would like to start by thanking all who have sent through their kind words of encouragement throughout this term.

I would also like to take this opportunity to address some concerns raised by parents, students and staff and hopefully, clarify the policies and expectations that I have sent to you over the past weeks.

Firstly, any family that does not have access to technology (i.e. a laptop) or internet, needs to contact the school immediately so that resources can be provided for your child – in particular any Year 12 students.

As many parents would be aware, my wonderful administration staff have been making calls home to update family information so that we can keep you abreast of new and changing information and checking on the learning and wellbeing of your child. I have also spent many hours with my executive and staff in long discussions regarding your child's learning.

Some common issues have arisen when listening to parents and I would like to take this opportunity to address them.

1. Lack of explicit teaching, so my child doesn't know how to do the worksheets provided
2. No work has been uploaded for my child
3. There is no support for my child
4. Too much work has been expected from my child and they are now stressed
5. The school is not monitoring my child's attendance so they are not doing any work

Students logging their attendance on Sentral, does not indicate that they are actually engaging in the work. Anyone who has access to their password (which they should not be sharing) can log an attendance. As such Moorebank High School is and will continue to monitor attendance via the completion and submission of student work.

Our policy (previously emailed to you) is explicit in outlining that students in Years 7 – 10 are expected to complete 3 – 4 hours of work a day and students in Years 11 and 12 are expected to complete 5 – 6 hours of work a day. What this looks like for students will be different. Where each child existing timetable can be used as a guide, some students will struggle with some subjects, whilst others will fly through the same content. We have a range of student talents and abilities at Moorebank High School. Children will be able to complete the work at their own pace, sometimes spending more time on one subject (particularly if an assessment is due) and may only have to spend a short time on another subject. As an example, some students may prefer to complete all their English or Mathematics work on one day and then focus on their other subjects on other days. This is not a one shoe fits all scenario. This learning needs to be tailored to a student's needs and abilities.

As such your child has the opportunity to follow their existing timetable to complete required work, or alternatively decide which days to focus on which subjects. They may need your support in organising this – please have a discussion with them.

I have perused many google classroom sites and have had extensive discussions with my executive and each piece of work – in particular for Years 11 and 12, (more focus on this for years 7 -10 will be forthcoming in Term 2) comes with explicit instructions and information. At times there are videos and recordings attached to the classwork to further support your child. Please encourage them to

read this information, not just jump straight into the worksheet without understanding the context, expectations and information that supports the completion of the work.

Every class on your child's timetable has work posted. Every child should have a unique code for each of their classes to get into the Google Classroom to access their learning. Your child should by now have completed three weeks of work.

This term, one body of work was posted for Years 7 – 10 for a three week period. I believe some confusion arose as some students thought the work was due immediately and did not understand that there was a three week period to complete the work.

To alleviate this confusion for all, I would like to clarify the expected amount of work due for submission for each student. This will come into effect for all students across all subjects in Term 2.

In Term 2, Years 7 – 10 will be expected to complete the set work, but will be required to submit a minimum of one piece of work per subject per week. Students in Years 7 – 10 study seven to eight subjects per week and will be expected to submit a minimum of 7 – 8 pieces of completed work per week. These pieces of completed work may include worksheets, a Google form of questions, watching a video and making a comment etc. They won't all be assignment or assessment sized tasks. Submission of this work will ensure that your child's attendance record is maintained as flexible leave. Failure to submit this work will indicate a lack of engagement with their work and their attendance at school will be marked as an unexplained absence (as per department guidelines). This was explained in a previous email from me.

In Term 2, Years 11 and 12 will be expected to complete the set work, but will be required to submit a minimum of two pieces of work per subject per week. Students in Years 11 and 12 study six subjects per week and will be expected to submit a minimum 12 pieces of completed work per week. Submission of this work will ensure that your child's attendance record is maintained as flexible leave. Failure to submit this work will indicate a lack of engagement with their work and their attendance at school will be marked as an unexplained absence (as per department guidelines). A reminder that the course completion criteria for both Year 11 and HSC courses still applies.

Specifically for Years 11 and 12, a student will be considered to have satisfactorily completed a course if, in the principal's view, there is sufficient evidence that the student has:

- followed the course developed or endorsed by NESA; and
- applied themselves with diligence and sustained effort to the set tasks and experiences provided in the course by the school; and
- achieved some or all of the course outcomes.

NESA's advice to students in Year 11 and 12 is:

- Keep learning, do your assessments.
- Look after yourself, whether you are at school or at home.
- Reach out to family, friends and your teachers if you need to.
- Go to UAC COVID-19 updates for information about entering university in 2021.

Something that has also become glaringly obvious is that students are not asking for help over the google classroom site. We believe that this is because when they post a question, the whole class and sometimes year cohort (pending on the subject and year group) is able to see it. We have found

that when students are able to post questions in a private post (so only the teacher can see it) they are more likely to ask for help. We have also identified that students are not accessing this help or support because they may not know how to create a private post. To support both you and your child with this, I have attached a series of screen shots to help your child with this, I have also attached below a youtube link that takes you and your child through the process of creating a private post. I encourage you to familiarise yourself with this over the school holidays so that you can ask your teacher any question related to your work in a safe environment.

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/v3ApLMKzPTQ>

It is also important that before commencing work that you are prepared. Have your texts, writing equipment, books, calculator, rulers etc. in case you need to draft responses, refer to texts or complete calculations. Asking your teacher “where do I get a piece of A4 paper” or “where can I get a pen” is not something that they should be responding to. Again, if any family finds themselves in financially struggling times, please contact the school and we will offer whatever assistance that we can.

I hope I have clarified some of the queries that have arisen over the past three weeks.

Kind regards

Vally Grego

Principal

8/4/2020