

Scotch College

15 October 2018

Dear Parents and Students

Years 11 and 12 Academic Information

As the new academic year commences we would like to share some important information with you about Years 11 and 12.

Ongoing feedback

In recent years the value of ongoing feedback has been highlighted in the work of Dr John Hattie, a revered educational researcher and current board member of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers (AITSL). In his meta-analyses of over 900 research studies relating to academic achievement he has identified that timely, specific and individualised feedback has one of the greatest impacts on learning. Feedback can be provided formatively, during the learning, and summatively, at the completion. In 2018 we trialed ongoing feedback in Years 9 and 12 and based on the success of this trial we are establishing this process as practice in the new academic year.

Feedback will be supplied on assessments, with the expectation being that your son will reflect on this feedback, looking for ways to implement the strategies provided by his teachers. The feedback may be specific to the syllabus content and/or the Approaches to Learning. Where appropriate, teachers will include worked or modelled solutions or a detailed marking key demonstrating what success looks like in the task.

Each of the learning areas will take a slightly different approach to providing the feedback, based on the type of assessment or content being covered. Students and parents will be able to access the feedback via SEQTA. Given the frequency and detail contained in this feedback, semester reports will no longer contain summative subject comments. Should you have any queries regarding your son's academic progress please feel welcome to contact your son's teacher(s).

Our new timetable

With the inception of the new six-period day the timetable has been re-structured to schedule Friday afternoon differently. That is, we have not scheduled timetabled classes in these periods. During this time after lunch on a Friday, Year 9 students will participate in their PSA sport and Year 10 students will complete their Community and Service programme. For Year 11 students this time will be structured as time to complete their Leadership programme on a fortnightly rotation, with the alternate week set aside to complete assessments or participate in year group meetings. In Year 12, Periods 5 and 6 on a Friday afternoon will be dedicated to assessment periods or year group meetings. This allows the College to maximise teaching time across the year and ensure the validity of assessments items by all students completing assessments at the same time in subjects where multiple classes are in operation.

The programme for Friday afternoons will become available early each term to assist with the scheduling of any appointments. Students studying the Diploma programme will also use Periods 5 and 6 on Friday to meet and work with both Mr Scaife and Mrs Fugill regarding their Extended Essay and Internal Assessments. These students should factor in being available each week during these periods.

Please note: Given the nature of subject combinations, not all students will be involved in assessments in Periods 5 and 6 each week. On these occasions students will be dismissed after their commitments.

Years 11 and 12 Assessment Policy

In Years 11 and 12 students at Scotch College are expected to conform to the Senior School Assessment Policy in order to ensure that assessment outcomes are fair for everyone.

WACE programme; if a student has missed an assessment due to illness, he will be awarded zero until such time as he provides a missed assessment form to his teacher with a medical certificate attached. If the absence is due to a misadventure, he will need to apply to the Dean of Teaching and Learning with the same form and receive approval before the assessment mark can be altered. These documents can be accessed in the 'documents' tab in Seqta Engage (Parent Connect) via [home.scotch](http://home.scotch.edu.au).

IB Diploma programme; If you are unsure of any information contained within the assessment policy document please contact Mr Michael Scaife for clarification. This document can be accessed in the 'documents' tab in Seqta Engage (Parent Connect) via [home.scotch](http://home.scotch.edu.au).

Please remember that any assessment that is missed due to time away from school for which a leave of absence has not been approved, will be awarded zero.

Please also note that the Year 11 Semester 2 examination period continues beyond the final day of Winter Term. Furthermore, the Year 12 Mock examination period occurs during the last week of Winter Term and the first week of the school holidays and as such, attendance is still mandatory according to the examination timetable.

Attendance at semester and other major examinations is compulsory as these represent part of the assessment programme. In exceptional circumstances, special arrangements may be made through the Head of Senior School. Exceptional circumstances generally relate to health issues and temporary disability. Participating in family holidays will not be accepted as an exceptional circumstance. Students who are sick on the day of an examination are required to obtain a Medical Certificate to support their claim for exceptional circumstances. If a student falls ill during an examination period he should refer to information regarding who to contact on his examination timetable.

A reminder that if a student is studying a Year 12 ATAR course and does not attend his final WACE examination or make a genuine attempt to complete the examination, that course will not be included and a record of completion will not appear on his final Statement of Results. This is likely to result in your son not receiving his WACE, which is critical for university entrance.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Cara Fugill, Dean of Teaching and Learning via email Cara.Fugill@scotch.wa.edu.au. If you have any concerns relating to the Diploma please contact Mr Michael Scaife via email Michael.Scaife@scotch.wa.edu.au.

Regards



Mr Dean Shadgett
Head of Senior School



Mrs Cara Fugill
Dean of Teaching and Learning