

Dear Parent/Guardian

I know the move to online learning has been stressful for many parents, and the mixed feedback we have been receiving is reflective of this. Some parents have told us they are overwhelmed with too much content, and others have said there isn't enough. I thought I would write to you to try to explain a few points and hopefully clarify the online learning for you.

CONNECT and Online Learning Platforms

Ashdale Secondary College is using multiple platforms but CONNECT should house information to explain each one. Learning Areas and teachers were already using these in classes and felt it would be useful and efficient to continue what students were familiar with rather than introduce a new resource.

We have added additional platforms to aid the delivery of learning. For example, Science was already using Education Perfect we are now doing so in Maths and HASS.

Before the end of the Term, I will distribute a matrix explaining the platforms being utilised for each Learning Area and Year Group.

CONNECT Notifications

The College understands the frustrations surrounding multiple CONNECT notifications. However, this occurs because CONNECT automatically sends out notifications each time a staff member uploads announcements or notices referencing work.

We know that the times in which notifications are received are not ideal but this occurs due to the vast majority of the public school system utilising CONNECT to notify students. There will be a congestion and a backlog of notifications to be sent out.

We will investigate other avenues to limit these notifications.

What are other schools doing?

All schools will operate and react to the move to online learning differently. Comparing schools at this time isn't helpful. I have been given feedback that other schools are using Zoom. We have decided not to use this as it isn't secure, there have been reports of people dropping into Zoom meetings posting inappropriate content around the world. We are trying to protect your children from this.

Assessments

As previously communicated, all formal assessments have been suspended until further information is available about Term 2 curriculum delivery. Tasks and work provided through online learning are formative, whereby they allow us to evaluate how the student is learning and progressing throughout a course. Teachers will provide feedback but they will not be completing formal assessments.

Week 10 (last week of school)

The Premier's announcement last week clearly outlined that parents were encouraged to keep students home where possible and in Week 10 schools would cease formal lessons, supervision will continue to be provided where necessary. Teachers may have already allocated work, we suggest you use this time to consolidate your learning from this term. There is no requirement for teachers to provide a full program for Week 10.

Term 2

We don't know what Term 2 will look like at this stage. Our guidance comes from the Education Minister, and the Health Department and when we have a clearer picture, we will communicate this with our community.

If you are experiencing problems, please contact the College, and we will assist you. If you are picking up any resources, please ensure you have contacted staff, and the work/resources will be made available for collection at the front office.

We understand that this is a stressful time for parents and students as you navigate through online learning as well as your multiple other roles. Please make decisions as a family, according to your circumstances, what you and your child can manage.

Kind regards



Kylie Bottcher
Principal

3 April 2020