



Coonabarabran High School

PO Box 3 Newell Hwy
Coonabarabran NSW 2357

Ph: 02 6842 1099

Fax: 02 6842 2267

Email: coonabarab-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

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Dear Parents and Carers

COVID-19 Update

We are certainly in uncharted waters and on behalf of all staff we hope that all of our families are staying safe. By way of update, I advise as follows:

CANTEEN

Our school canteen is closed until further notice. If students are attending school they should bring a packed lunch and recess.

ATTENDANCE

If you are keeping your child at home for whatever reason, illness or to follow the Premier's direction re Covid-19 from 23 March, please let the office know or use the form on Schoolstream. Due to the change in government policy, keeping students home from school on account of Covid-19 is no longer regarded as an unjustified absence.

TAFE

All Tafe courses will finish tomorrow until next term where they will likely run in an online platform for some time.

LEARNING FROM HOME

As advised last week, students in Years 7-10 have had learning booklets prepared with sufficient work until the end of term. Teachers are confident that these activities will maintain students' continuity of learning. The activities should be submitted at the start of next term. If students have not been at school this week the learning resource booklets can be collected from the front office.

Senior students will be learning through a variety of platforms and teachers have spoken to their classes about how learning will be taking place. IT IS VITAL THAT SENIOR STUDENTS CHECK their Department of Education email on a daily basis. If they are not sure what their email is or cannot recall their password they should contact the front office. All students at school this week were required to make a note of their Department of Education email.

Hopefully by the end of this week our website (Google Coona High) will have more detail re learning in each year and subject. Please note that the junior learning booklets and the work notified to seniors will cover learning until the end of Term 1. We shall reassess the situation at the commencement of Term 2 and provide further detail then. Students are encouraged to complete the work for the remainder of the term as per their normal school timetable. This structured routine will support effective learning.

May I recommend our website as the best source of information relating to learning and Covid-19. Our website also includes a link to the Department's resources with tips for parents to support learning at home.

ASSESSMENTS

YEAR 11 & 12

You may have seen in the media that the board of NESAs met on Tuesday and confirmed that the HSC will go ahead. One change is that schools have been given greater flexibility re assessments in terms of number, weight and type. The Covid-19 crisis has necessitated the postponing of some HSC tasks. Other tasks, as requested by our students, will proceed. Accordingly, teachers will communicate to their Year 12 students any changes to due dates or nature of tasks. Such communication will be via the student's departmental email address. If you or your child has any queries re a HSC task, please contact me and I will obtain clarification. Similarly, some Year 11 tasks have been postponed and teachers will advise students regarding any change via students' departmental email address. Again I am able to obtain any clarification if needed.

YEARS 7-10

There are some tasks that students will be working on whilst at home. Should you have any queries regarding junior assessment tasks, please contact your child's teacher, via the front office and they will provide clarification.

1. Wellbeing

These are undoubtedly challenging times. I enclose for your reference some support materials received from Headspace, which outline positive measures to support a "healthy headspace".

Two final things:

- (i) A plea for some reading! It is one of the best things a young person can do to grow their mind. Wouldn't it be great if out of this time in isolation, we grew some more committed readers? If eBooks are your child's preference, they can access the Wheelers eBooks platform (for free) as the school has a subscription. They will just need to download The Wheelers eBooks app to commence.
- (ii) I recognise the dedication of all staff. Their efforts in preparing and distributing learning resources and upskilling along the way with new technologies has been quite incredible. Thank you!

I appreciate that this is a lot of information. Please know that we are committed to supporting your child's education at this difficult time and so please contact us if you have concerns

Yours faithfully

Ms M DOOLAN
RELIEVING PRINCIPAL