



### A MESSAGE FROM THE MHS PRINCIPAL, ELENA MARINIS

Dear MHS Parents/Carer(s),

The last day of term has arrived. It certainly isn't the finish we were expecting eleven weeks ago. I want to thank you for your patience and commitment to your child's learning. I realise this is a very trying time with families at home, online learning, limited devices and the seemingly overwhelming demands of that online learning platform, not to mention the health crisis and the worries that brings with it, including the economic concerns.

The purpose of this email was to let you know the current arrangements will continue when school returns in Term 2. We can expect this situation to last for at least 90 days. I ask parents and carers to keep an eye on our Facebook page, MHS website and the Millennium Parent Portal as we get closer to the end of the holidays. We will post information if there are any changes to school operations for the beginning of Term 2.

If you have an HSC student assure them that NESA will do everything to support students. They, like us want students to be successful and not to be disadvantaged by the current situation. We are reviewing all assessments scheduled for Term 2 and will upload the necessary information early in the term.

As I said before, I know it has been overwhelming. We have been listening to your feedback and concerns. As a result, we will continue to follow the same timetable structure as we have been doing, however, online classwork **will be reduced and extra time will be allocated for tasks to be completed**. This will allow students to take a break from the screen, do some physical activity and participate in wellbeing and mindfulness activities.

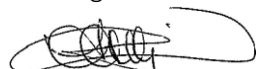
We have been speaking with Year Advisers and teachers ensuring teaching is explicit and expectations are clear. We have also set limits to the time expected for students to work post the online lesson. I ask you to encourage your students to attend the Video Conference (VC) sessions when they are posted on the Google Classroom and TEAMS. Teachers will be on for the scheduled lesson and will answer questions via the Google Classroom/Teams. A helpful hint for VC lessons it to ensure that the mic is on mute until the student wishes to speak. Also Assignment on the Google Classroom is not assessment, it is Google's word for the current class work of the day.

At this time I would normally be wishing you a happy holiday and acknowledging staff that may be moving to another school. I would like to my express my gratitude and well wishes from all the staff and students to the lovely Ms Katie John, who has been a long term temporary teacher at Mitchell High. She has contributed greatly to the English faculty and has been an exceptional educator, Year Adviser, colleague and friend. We wish her well for her new permanent position at Temora High and say we will miss her. We also wish Mrs Aprea in the CAPA faculty farewell as she too will be taking up a permanent position at Eagle Vale High.

Thank you so all my amazing staff at Mitchell High who have banded together in such challenging times. To our wonderful students and their families thank you for your support.

I think these holidays are certainly going to be quite different this year. So I am going to wish you a relaxing, restful time for the next couple of weeks. It is difficult, I know. Take care of one another, stay safe and healthy. Put down the devices go out into the sunshine, fresh air, be thankful for what you have and what you can control. Take pleasure in the simple things. I look forward to times that are more like what we are used to and expect. Be safe and take care.

Kind regards



Elena Marinis

Proud Principal of Mitchell High School