



February 2025

Dear Year 12 Parents and Carers

YEAR 12 MOCK BLOCK AND EXTERNAL EXAM PREPARATIONS

Since the introduction of the New QCE system 5 years ago, schools have been evolving the best ways to support all students to be prepared and as successful as they can be for their final and external exams.

It is well known that all Science and Mathematics based exams represent 50% of the final result out of 100 marks for papers. Often, this creates a perception that there is more pressure around these exams. When students prepare and study for any external exam it is important that this occurs across the life of the course and not just in a flurry at the very end. The most successful past students always share that they develop strong study and revision routines from the very beginning of Year 11 and leave nothing to chance by “cramming” at the end of Term 3 or early Term 4 just prior to the externals after waiting to receive mock block feedback.

The curriculum and school leaders have been actively reviewing our ways of working to best prepare students for the external exams. Our collective lived experiences over the last 5 years (since the new QCE was introduced) gives us the foundation to seek out ways to refine and improve the experience. This is inclusive of students who are ATAR eligible, students who study applied and vocational subjects. With the aim of being as inclusive as possible, regardless of the chosen and pathway, and supporting each group with their pathway we think about the collective, not any one individual or any pathway group as a priority over another. This ensures equity for all of our students whilst at the same time maintaining a sense of belonging and connectedness for the entire cohort for as long as possible.

As the Principal, I am also required to consider our teachers, their work loads, marking and feedback loads to their students across particular weeks in the school year. The vast majority of teachers have 5 classes and are required to mark assessment, provide timely and quality feedback and report across all year levels at the same time as Mock Block exams being held and Mock Block feedback is expected to be given.

My role is to consider the pros and cons of all stakeholders to ensure all parties are being considered and looked after as much as possible while at the same time aiming high for our students and their greater good in order to support their outcomes regardless of pathway choice.

Over the last week or so, we have been consulting with students, curriculum leaders and our trusted teaching staff on this topic, having already reflected on the quality of last year’s external examination preparation program and how it can be made even better.

The student consultation commenced with school captains organising a SPACE forum to discuss, hear about and consider all possibilities around the best positioning of the Mock Blocks and Feedback sessions, as well as External exam preparations. Based on the offered solutions, thoughts and concerns discussed in this forum, together with staff feedback, two options have been devised that consider all stakeholders’ input and within the constraints of external and internal timelines.



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All Year 12 students are now being invited to consider both options and then vote for their preferred option that best supports being academically prepared for their pathway. Once this data has been collected and considered, along with other feedback shared by staff, a final decision about the preparation for external exam plan will be made and communicated to students and families.

Of course, it will be humanly impossible to meet every single person's preferred option, however, I am hopeful that the result supports the greater good of many; both our students and our teachers.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we seek out opportunities to improve and grow as a school to support our students to achieve their full potential.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Anne McLauchlan
Executive Principal



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