

Canberra College Community Message - Responding to COVID19

Canberra College Online

Dear Students/Parents and Carers,

As a community we have been presented with significant challenges and changes to our way of life in recent weeks. The disruption of regular schooling across Australia in response to COVID19, is one of many measures families have made in response to the community health crisis.

Today we report back to our community that the time educators and staff were provided since 24 March has been productive in establishing [Canberra College Online](https://sites.google.com/ed.act.edu.au/canberracollegeonline/home), for students to continue their semester 1 studies through the online learning management system, Google Classroom. This will formally commence from 28 April. Students will already be very familiar with Google Classroom, but it is only in recent weeks that the Google Meet feature for videoconferencing classes has been enabled.

During the pupil free days, teachers have enhanced their skills and teaching practices to enable online learning using the Google Classroom suite of tools and have trialled this approach with their classes.

Students also will continue to adapt to learning from home through Google Classroom and teachers will negotiate with students if additional support materials are required.

Canberra College Online webpage:

<https://sites.google.com/ed.act.edu.au/canberracollegeonline/home>



Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00 – 10:00	Use this time for CC Connect Group, Clubs and Active@CBRC. When learning online it is a priority to commit to your personal wellbeing through connecting with people and being active and self-aware. Of course you may use the time to prepare for classes, complete tasks and ensure your technology is ready to go. This time may also be used to schedule student collaboration activities or Flexible Class Assessment time.				
Active@CBRC Clubs CC Connect	Active@CBRC 9.30am CC Connect Group Check-In	Clubs Active@CBRC 9.30am Student VOICE	Clubs Active@CBRC	Clubs Active@CBRC	Clubs Active@CBRC
10:00 - 11:00	Line 1	Line 6	Line 2	Line 7	Line 3
11:00 - 12:00	Line 2	Line 4	Line 3	Line 5	Line 1
12:00-12:30 Lunch Meeting	College				CC Connect Group Check-Out
12:30 - 1:30	Line 7	Line 7	Line 6	Line 3	Line 2
1:30 - 2:30	Line 5	Line 5	Line 1	Line 4	Line 6
2:30 - 3:30	Line 4	Line 1-7 Student Learning Time - Use this time to prepare for classes, complete tasks and ensure your technology is ready to go. This time may also be used to schedule student collaboration activities or Flexible Class Assessment Time.			

We have a website with [a menu of Canberra College Online information](#) which includes a structured Student Online Timetable (pictured). The online Timetable provides both class line allocations, in addition to CC Connect and wellbeing programs.

The information provided is to support the early stages of this transition to online learning and caters for students and parents/carers. We know that learning from home for an extended period will come with challenges, and we do not expect parents to become teachers for home schooling.

Whilst parents and carers play a key role here in their capacity to provide encouragement and a space for learning at home to occur, students need to actively engage in their learning. Teachers will guide and support them through the online class program.

The college will continue to build on the initial launch of Canberra College Online and we welcome constructive feedback from students and parents/carers to continue improving our practice.

The college is very confident all Year 12 students will have access to their **Year 12 Certificate and university entrance requirements this year**, following on from statements made in recent days by the ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies (BSSS) and Education Directorate.

The **BSSS** has stated, “Students who complete the appropriate T courses and undertake the ACT Scaling Test (AST), will qualify for a Tertiary Entrance Statement (TES) and an Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR). The BSSS is currently developing a range of contingencies for the ACT Scaling Test (AST). At this stage, the intention is to conduct the ACT Scaling Test as per normal. We are monitoring the situation and will provide further information as required. The Universities Admission Centre (UAC) has confidence in ACT assessment outcomes and the data used for the calculation of the ATAR.”

Affirming this position for our current Year 12 students, **Katie Hair, Director General for Education**, provided the following statement stating, “We are fortunate in the ACT to have a flexible approach to year 11 and 12 assessment. All ACT year 12 students will have the opportunity to receive the ACT Senior Secondary Certificate. Year 12 students working towards their ATAR will also have the opportunity to receive it this year.”

Each week will commence with a CC Connect wellbeing check-in at 9.30am on Monday. As term 2 starts on a Tuesday below is the timetable for our first day of Canberra College Online.

Tuesday 28 April - Day ONE Term 2

- **9.30 CC Connect** – all students MUST join their CC Connect Google Classroom. Instructions for the CC Connect Google Classroom session will be provided in advance of this initial class.
- **10.00 Tuesday Online Timetable** (Line 1, 2)
- **12.00 The College Meeting** will occur and Information on accessing this meeting will also be sent via email to students in advance.
- **12.30 Tuesday Online Timetable** (Line 7,5,4)

Please stay up to date

Please be aware that we will notify you if our operational circumstances change. Students and Parents are reminded to stay up to date with the latest information on COVID19 by visiting the [Education Directorate's website](#), [ACT Health](#), [ACT Board of Senior Studies](#) and the [Canberra College](#) websites. In particular, the ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies has posted *Advice for Students and Parents/Carers* on the front page of their website www.bsss.act.edu.au .

Thank you

As we now enter the official Autumn school break and Easter holiday for many, we hope all in our community have some time to reflect on our good fortune, and take time to acknowledge the limitations we now have are minor in comparison to those in deep crisis elsewhere on the planet.

From an educator in Italy I have received an email message titled, What's the upside? I hope you may take solace from this message included below.

For this break, I have asked all staff to step back from their computer screens and spend more time with family and look after their wellbeing. Term 2 will be with us soon enough and we are well-prepared for it.

This is clearly a difficult time for our community. I thank everyone for your support and understanding during this uncertain time.

Take care.

Michael Battenally

Principal

Canberra College

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What's the Upside?

1. You will find these last few weeks have realised, yes, that technology is a wonderful thing, but that there is no substitute for personal human interaction and face-to-face contact; we should cherish our 'real world' relationships with family and friends.
2. There will be times you find yourselves bored – yet it is out of boredom that creativity is born; it is from staring at a wall for hours that ideas come and imagination quickens; when I was 16, my parents moved house very far from where we'd lived before; that summer I had little or no contact with friends (there was no Internet in those days), but it was then that I started to read lots of books and watch great films - it changed and enriched my life.
3. Routines are important, and this is a time when you can learn something new – a dance routine, a new language, a musical instrument, how to cook; practising a little each day will give you a great new skill that you will have forever.
4. At the moment you will be spending a lot of time with your family – and I recognise that for both children (especially teenagers) as well as parents, this can have its frustrations as well as its joys, but you will come to treasure this time when you look back later in life.
5. You have the opportunity in this period to develop your inner life, to become a stronger person mentally, to learn to be independent, to cope with frustrations, and this will make you a more mature, fully-rounded as well as a more resilient human being.

(from an educator in Milan, Italy, March 2020)