

27 January 2022

ST MICHAEL'S COLLEGE ONLINE TEACHING AND LEARNING PLAN
SECONDARY CAMPUS YEARS 9 to 11

Dear Parents/Caregivers of Years 9 to 11 students,

As you are aware, the current SA Government direction is for a staggered return to face-to-face over the next few weeks. This communication contains key information on the **St Michael's College Online Teaching and Learning Plan**, relevant to students in Years 9, 10 and 11. Details include:

- 1. Online Teaching and Learning**
- 2. Guidelines for Parents/Caregivers**

1. Online Teaching and Learning

The **St Michael's College Education Continuity Plan** is developed to ensure students' learning and wellbeing are sustained when face-to-face learning is not in place. While detailed, we suggest that this is all very important information for parents/caregivers.

The College will continue to provide effective teaching and learning for students who are learning from home. All learning programs will be maintained, though some changes to curriculum delivery and assessment may occur. In line with our College Mission and Vision, we are committed to our students' education through **Community, Challenge, Choice**.

The **St Michael's College Education Continuity Plan** considers:

- the methods which will be used for communication.
- the technology systems which will be employed.
- best practice for remote learning and teaching.
- guidelines for how parents/caregivers can support their child/children's learning and wellbeing.
- guidelines for students to engage in this process.

Our Learning Management System, **SEQTA**, will continue to be our main online learning tool. The College has used SEQTA for over six years for curriculum, assessment, wellbeing, and administration. As such, our staff and students are proficient in using this online platform. Teachers will continue to include details of lessons, instructions, resources, assessment tasks etc., on SEQTA.

Teachers and students will also use **Microsoft Teams (MS Teams)** as a video conferencing tool to support and complement SEQTA and deliver some online teaching, learning, and wellbeing programs. MS Teams is a robust, reliable, and secure learning and communication platform.

Students will engage with the online learning environment in a structured manner using Microsoft Teams and SEQTA Learn at the usual lesson times, following their daily timetable, including Pastoral Care and Extended Pastoral Care. Every effort will be made to ensure that students remain connected with their teachers.

In the first instance, for each subject, students will be "invited" by their teacher to "join" the meeting/lesson on MS Teams, and the roll will be taken. The remainder of the lesson may involve teaching via MS Teams or continuing work outlined in SEQTA. Future lessons may or may not involve MS Teams, but lesson instructions will be provided on SEQTA.

Our goal is for all students to engage in authentic learning experiences when away from the College. Learning Support and English as an Additional Language (EAL) teams will continue working remotely with their students.

It is important that students understand that even though they are home, they are still required to engage with the teaching and learning and to complete school work so that they flourish academically despite the circumstances.

*If students are unable to engage with their learning due to illness, Parents/Caregivers are asked to call the absentee line on **8150 2323** or text **0417 596 611 before 9:30 am** on the day of 'absence', so the teacher is aware and can make accommodations accordingly.*

2. Guidelines for Parents/Caregivers

Online learning for students in Years 9 to 11 is not new, with students having had some experience in 2021. Families may also have younger children at home and parents/caregivers are potentially also working from home, or in fact, returning to work. Thus we recommend thinking about how this will work at home for your family.

The College is committed to providing quality education to our students, but it will be different. It will require support and guidance from parents/caregivers to ensure every student is successful. Some students will thrive, while others may struggle with the change in routine. The guidelines provided below are intended to help parents/caregivers think about what you can do to help your children experience success during the time that the online learning is in place:

Support usual routines and expectations

- Students must access SEQTA and MS Teams **at usual, timetabled lesson times** to engage with the lesson, which may involve explicit teaching, work from SEQTA Learn, an ongoing task/assignment etc. Students must ensure they have all the necessary equipment/resources for the lesson.
- Starting the learning at usual lesson times and incorporating the regular breaks will enable students to recognise that it is a continuation in the learning, just in a different environment.

Set up a study space in the home

- Setting up a space in the home that is **appropriate and conducive to learning** will help maintain expectations. The space could be an open area in the home, as long as it allows focussed learning to occur. Having an area or space dedicated to learning will be vital. Please ensure that, at home, students have access to the internet and their school email.
- Students are also asked to participate in online learning wearing either their **Summer or PE Uniform**.

Monitor your child's communications with teachers

- The teachers will work to ensure that learning is available through **SEQTA** at regular lesson times. Parents/Caregivers are encouraged to monitor their child's communication with teachers before seeking to make contact themselves.
- Please avoid contacting teachers between 9:00 am to 3:30 pm unless it is absolutely necessary, as during this time, teachers will be communicating remotely with their students across all of the classes they teach. If you contact a teacher via email, please expect that an immediate response may not be possible.

Regularly check in with your children

- Parents/Caregivers are encouraged to start and end the day with a check-in with their child/children by asking prompting questions such as; "*What lessons are timetabled for today?*", "*What are you learning?*", "*Do you have all the resources you require for your lessons today?*", "*When is your next task due?*". Keeping communication open will assist in maintaining the continuity of learning. It is important that your child 'owns' their work and adheres to the rules for assessment. Parents/Caregivers will also be able to check programs and progress through SEQTA Engage.

Health and Wellbeing

- During online learning, a change to routine, it is essential that parents/caregivers support their child/children to manage the associated worries and emotions and maintain their wellbeing. Critical to this is providing a good **routine** and having **open discussions** around what is happening. Please talk to your child/ren openly about what is going on and the importance of being prepared, being healthy, and taking things as they come day by day. One way of maintaining a sense of normality is to engage in their learning in a structured and supportive way.
- This email also contains an attachment, a list of services and contact details for support of young people if required.

If you need clarification on teaching, learning, or wellbeing, please forward your questions to Audrey.Rangel@smc.sa.edu.au. In the meantime, know that our students' learning and wellbeing is our priority.

We thank you for your ongoing partnership and support.

Sincerely,

Bron Kemp

BRON KEMP

Deputy Principal
Teaching and Learning

Matthew Williams

MATTHEW WILLIAMS

Deputy Principal
Pastoral

Amanda Price

AMANDA PRICE

Deputy Principal
Staff and Strategy

What is mental health?



Generally speaking, our mental health refers to our state of mind and ability to cope with the everyday things that are going on around us. Someone with 'good' mental health usually feels capable of dealing with the different everyday situations that they find themselves in. This is called resilience, meaning our ability to bounce back from disruptions in our life and progress towards whatever goals we set for ourselves.

It's normal for everyone to experience ups and downs, but when negative feelings persist for long periods of time or interfere with everyday life, you should seek support. If you are worried about your mental health or finding it difficult to cope, it's better to ask for help early, for example by talking to your parents, mentor or school counsellor. You can also contact the following services:



Kids Helpline

Kids Helpline is a free, private and confidential 24/7 phone and online counselling services for young people aged 5 to 25. The Kids Helpline website also provides information on issues including peer pressure, blended families, dealing with conflict and managing risky behaviours.

Ph: 1800 551 800
(open 24 hours toll free)
www.kidshelpline.com.au



Headspace

Headspace is for young people aged 12- 25 going through a tough time. Provides someone to talk to on the telephone or via online chat for, support on mental health, general health, trauma, alcohol & other drugs, self-harm issues.

Ph: 1800 650 890
Port Adelaide: 8215 6340
www.headspace.org.au



ReachOut.com

ReachOut.com provides information on motivation, grief, parents' separation, personal identity and getting through really tough times. Offers helpful tools and apps.

<http://au.reachout.com>



Lifeline

Lifeline for telephone counselling and crisis support chat. The Lifeline website also offers crisis support, a service finder and information on issues including suicide prevention, panic attacks, self-harm, domestic violence, rural mental health and asking for help.

Ph: 13 11 14
(crisis support open 24 hours toll free)
Online Chat: 7:00pm - 4:00am
(7 days)
www.lifeline.org.au



Beyond Blue

Youth Beyond Blue, aims to empower young people to respond to depression and anxiety. Provides information on issues including depression, anxiety treatment options & recovery and staying well. Online forums or call a counsellor. There is also the webchat option.

Ph: 1300 22 4636
(open 24 hours toll free)
Online chat 3:00pm - 12:00am
(7days)
www.youthbeyondblue.com