



Arrangements for the start of Term 2, 2020

Student and parent information

The purpose of this communication is to confirm arrangements for Marden Senior College students to continue their learning from the start of Term 2 (Monday 27 April 2020). These arrangements will be continually reviewed in response to government direction as well as learner and program needs. Outlined here is the plan for the first four weeks of the term.

In support of Australia's social-distancing initiative students will be unable to undertake lessons in classrooms with their teachers as they did in Term 1. However, the access to high quality teaching and learning will continue and teachers have made adjustments to enable this to be accessed remotely for the first four weeks of term. We will strive to minimise disruption to student learning as best we can, but acknowledge the transition from a traditional face-to-face to online methods presents challenges for students and their families, and our staff.

As a senior college, with most students over 16 years and able to be more self-directed in their learning, we are expecting the majority of students to continue their learning from home. However, the school will still remain open for students unable to access learning at home. The school library, open during normal school daytime hours, will be used as a supervised study area with computer and internet access. Students at school will have access to learning the same as students at home. Subject teachers will not be available to provide face-to-face support and nor will specialist learning resource areas be accessible during these early weeks of Term 2.

Continuity of teaching and learning

Regular scheduled lesson times, as per Term 1 timetables, will continue to be the core times for subject specific learning facilitated by the teacher. This applies to SACE subjects and VET courses alike. Online modes will be the main way for students to access learning resources and activities, maintain interactions with teachers, and with their peers.

Although learning differs from subject to subject and lesson to lesson, the following can be expected in this new teaching and learning environment:

- An outline of learning for each lesson will be provided on Daymap as a starting point for learning resources, activities and links to interactions
- Students can expect at least 30 minutes of 'whole of class' explicit instruction/teaching by their teacher. This will be available online, mainly through WebEx, Zoom or Microsoft Teams
- Normal lesson duration applies with teachers available during this period for learning interactions
- As teachers and students become more comfortable using technologies such as WebEx, Zoom or Microsoft Teams for learning, we envisage increasing real-time 'face-to-face interactions' to support email and other text exchanges during lesson times
- Teachers will be seeking communication with each student at least once per week. Normal non-attendance follow-up processes apply if this is not occurring.

Adult interactions are the norm at our college, and these too apply online. Protocols around appropriate use of online technologies for learning will be made clearer as we progress.



Assessment

Teachers have made assessment adjustments as required to navigate through the first four weeks of Term 2 and maintain programs for the year. This may include the completion of supervised, timed assessments at home. The aim is to be able to complete required assessments this year and enable students to successfully complete their SACE. We should have confidence in the emerging responses from the authorities, including the SACE Board and ASQA (the VET regulatory authority), to best accommodate fair outcomes for all students, and the completion of Year 12 with university entry arrangements in place, in 2020 across Australia.

Practical learning and assessment

Most SACE subjects and VET courses have practical elements of learning and assessment, for example: collaborative work and physical activity, biology experiments, textile and painting and drawing in the arts, photography, food processing, graphic design and business. A number of these require specialist resources available at school. Programs have been adjusted for the first four weeks of Term 2 to enable learning and assessment continuity at home. For a number of programs this is not sustainable and arrangements will be reviewed over the first few weeks and various options, including specific 'come in to college' days explored. Students undertaking painting and drawing/art subjects should have received a materials pack to enable practical learning in these areas to continue.

Technology requirements

Ideally students will have access to a computer or laptop with good Internet connectivity, with headphones, set up in a dedicated and ergonomically sound working environment. We appreciate that this is not always possible for many students who will be set up in shared spaces in the house, perhaps sharing devices with others with limited data access and/or relying on mobile phones as their main device. With this and other considerations in mind, students will not be required to be online for the duration of scheduled learning time. Please mention to your teacher, your mentor, or contact the college if access to technology is presenting a significant barrier to student learning.

IT Help Sheets to support staff and students with various technologies are available at www.msc.sa.edu.au from the top right hand drop down menu. Support is also available via email to helpdesk@msc.sa.edu.au.

Learning at home

Students should be ready for learning at the start of each lesson and check Daymap for daily learning instructions. If unable to connect in a particular lesson contact your teacher via email or Daymap message, or as a last resort ring the college on 8366 2800.

Try to undertake learning in an appropriate workspace with access to the equipment and resources required. Aim for a quiet location with minimal distractions and organising your study space to ensure appropriate ergonomics is important. For video conferencing sessions consider how others receive this through your choice of clothing, background, maintenance of your privacy, etc.

Learning at school

Students at school will have access to learning the same as students at home. The college will provide a safe, supervised learning environment from 8.30am until 3.30pm primarily for students under 17 years of age who can't learn online from home and/or whose parents work away from the household, and those with "digital access issues". Special arrangements will also be made to support students who need



additional support to successfully continue their learning. This additional support is likely to include 'at school' participation.

Students continuing their learning at school are to report to the library when they arrive for their 'at school' time. A safe, supervised study environment will be provided in the library and elsewhere as needed. A sign in and out sheet will be used to manage student attendance and maintain duty of care responsibilities.

The cafeteria will most likely not be available from the start of Term 2. Social distancing will be expected of both staff and students on site.

Evening classes and students who attend Marden from a different 'home school'

Students who attend SACE or VET classes during the day at Marden will access learning remotely, the same as other students. It is reasonable to expect that 'at school' supervision or additional support during the day will be provided at the home school and not Marden Senior College. Students will not have access to learning or supervision on site for evening classes.

Communications, maintaining contact with the college, and student wellbeing

As per usual the key contact for student learning is the subject teacher. Wherever possible interactions should primarily happen during scheduled learning times. Other important contacts are:

- Mentors (should one be allocated to a student) will monitor student engagement in learning on a week-by-week basis.
- Counsellors (aka Student Wellbeing Leaders) are available to provide wellbeing support and help overcome barriers to learning. To make a face-to-face or phone appointment with a counsellor go to www.msc.sa.edu.au/request-support. Should the matter be urgent call 8366 2800.