



WALK IN NEW LIFE

MATER MARIA CATHOLIC COLLEGE
COMMUNITY • FORMATION • SUCCESS

Year 12 Graduation Celebrations

August 14, 2020

Dear Year 12 Students, Parents and Carers,

Year 12 End of Year Programme

The thoughts and prayers of our community are with our Year 12 students as they commence their trial HSC examinations next week. We have been extremely proud of the manner in which students have applied themselves to the task of completing courses and revising for the examinations. Year 12 teachers are looking forward to marking their students' work so that targeted feedback can be provided after the trials in the weeks that remain until the end of this term.

The customary events that we look forward to at this time of the HSC year are the Presentation of Awards Assembly, the Graduation Mass and the Valedictory Dinner (Formal). Unfortunately due to the current COVID restrictions, this year the programme will look a little different. We have explored several options in an attempt to make the end of their schooling memorable and to bring families together to celebrate this important milestone, but all venues are faced with the same restrictions in relation to numbers of guests and duration of events. Graduation events and formals are considered as corporate events by NSW Health which can have a maximum of 150 attendees (including the students) and Masses have a further restriction of 100 attendees. These maximum numbers are assuming the size of the venue is large enough based on the 4 square metre rule. It is therefore with great regret that we have to make alternative arrangements that will not be as inclusive as we would like them to be.

The conventional Presentation of Awards Assembly and Graduation Mass will be replaced with a conflated Presentation of Awards Assembly which will include a substantial Blessing. This will be held as calendared in the Marana Complex at 1 pm on Tuesday 22nd September. Since the Marana Complex floor area can only accommodate 155 people at this time, Year 12 Mentor teachers will attend the event and it will be simultaneously live-streamed to parents who can view the event at home. A link to the event will be available so that should families wish to view the event together at a later date, this will be possible. We envisage that many families may arrange to get together with the parents of their sons' or daughters' friends (20 people are currently allowed to gather in homes) to share the event with one-another.

The Valedictory Dinner/Formal will not go ahead this term due to the restrictions in place at Miramare Gardens. At this stage, the venue would only be able to accommodate 150 people for a sit-down meal with no music or dancing. We have booked an alternative date for the event - 11th November 2020, as we remain hopeful that by then restrictions may have lifted. Should they not be lifted, we will liaise with our student leaders to discuss an alternative. We are open to working with our students to provide them with an appropriate celebration that includes families at a later date.

While there is obviously much to be disappointed about in relation to the end of year events, I hope that in our respective roles as parents and teachers, we can metaphorically wrap ourselves around our students by reminding them of the many blessings that we do still have, and of the opportunities that still await them as they venture towards the next chapter of their lives. Our positivity will be a richly protective factor for our young people at this unexpected nexus in history. We have no doubt that this year will be spoken about by our students in the future as a significant moment that taught them significant life lessons and enhanced their resilience. It is our collective job to steer them in this way of hopeful thinking.

Of course, if it becomes clear that we can hold a more inclusive end of year function, then we will certainly do so. In the meantime, we join you as parents in focussing on the examinations and maintaining a positive outlook.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'M. Reicher'.

Marc Reicher

College Principal