Absence from Formal Exams and/or Formal Assessment Tasks due to Family Holidays

Years 11-12

Under the School’s assessment guidelines the taking of family holidays does not constitute a valid reason for being absent from a formal examination or Formal Assessment Task. Likewise, absence from the above due to attendance at a leisure or recreational event, such as a music concert or NRL match, is not considered valid grounds for an extension or rescheduling of an examination or Formal Assessment Task.

Students who miss an examination or Formal Assessment Task due to the above reasons will receive a “0” mark. The only exemption that will be granted will be for students who are absent as part of a recognised International Student Exchange Program, which has been approved in advance by the school (These are not deemed to be holidays). Students and parents should be aware that loss of marks may adversely impact on formal reports, marks, grades, rankings, and HSC and ATAR results where applicable.

The above guideline will apply to students who apply for and are granted an exemption from attendance at school during school terms for the purpose of a family holiday or family reunion. Exemption from attendance does not constitute Illness/ Misadventure for missed exams or assessment tasks. Students may have the opportunity to submit hand-in tasks before their departure but tasks will not be published earlier than scheduled and in-class tasks will not be rescheduled due to family holidays.

Naturally, the school recognises and understands absence due to sickness, family crisis or tragedy, significant family event not constituting a family reunion or family holiday, such as a family member wedding or award ceremony, and events beyond the control of a student and their family. In these cases, students need to provide written explanation (including a medical certificate for illness, in the case of Years 10 to 12) and alternative arrangements would be made. School, diocesan, state or national representation is recognised as a valid reason for being absent from an examination or task.

These policy guidelines reinforce to students the importance of their school education, help provide a level playing field for all students, minimise the opportunity for unfair advantage and safeguard the integrity of examination papers and Formal Assessment Tasks.

PM: 06/13