



## CHANGES TO THE DELIVERY OF HSC MATHS & ENGLISH IN 2024

### Q & A

#### Why change?

English and Mathematics are both subjects that are highly skill based. It is important that these skills are continually refined. When putting down a subject for a year, the lack of practice could be detrimental to the upkeep of those skills. This is opposed to subjects like Physics and Chemistry (Mr Jolliffe's areas of specialty) which are conceptually difficult but not particularly skill intensive. By delivering English and Mathematics in a traditional format, this will mean that students do not lose the skills they have been honing over the years.

The English Extension 2 course consists of a major work and yet is only a 1 unit subject, therefore there are only 4 -5 periods available per week to create a major work. Because of the small amount of time in class available, this makes it difficult to produce a work of quality.

#### Why is only English and Maths changing and not all subjects?

Offering the focused approach for subjects other than English and Maths still provides many benefits to our school community, including:

- The ability to offer you a greater selection of courses
- Reducing your stress as you have fewer courses to manage than if you were completing your HSC using the traditional method
- Being better able to support the needs of highly capable students and students who require additional support. A recent study by the *Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation* found that 'compressing courses for highly capable and motivated students allowed them to 'accelerate' through their preliminary and HSC courses and take on more courses or extension courses in Year 12' and for students requiring additional support the 'compressed curriculum model was thought to improve their level of engagement and attention, and offer an opportunity to gain qualifications, such as a VET credential, while still at school'
- Improving school culture among Year 11 & Year 12 students as a result of senior students sharing classes and developing a 'more collegial atmosphere'

#### What does it mean for current Year 11 students?

Nothing.

You will continue to complete your HSC using the focused approach for all your subjects. You will not be disadvantaged in any way and will still have the ability to choose a level of English/Maths that best suits your needs.

### **What does it mean for current Year 10 students?**

You will choose English and Maths at the level that is right for you, completing these subjects in the traditional way over two years. You will choose four other subjects ('electives') which will be completed using the focused approach. You will do two of these subjects in Year 11 and two in Year 12. This hybrid approach will allow for a wide range of subject offerings over the next two years.

### **How will the timing of exams work?**

For our Year 11 students, they will sit their two examinations in Weeks 1 - 5 of Term 4. They will still need to attend classes for English and Mathematics so they will attend school during this time. There will not be heavy homework requirements so at night they can study for examinations and in the other two thirds of the day at school, they can study for their examinations. Three school days before their examination, they will not attend school, staying at home and focusing on their study. For example, if the Physics Examination is on Tuesday Week 4, on the Thursday of Week 3 through to the Monday of Week 4, the Physics students will not attend school and stay home to study.

### **Will I be disadvantaged in Year 12, now having to sit additional exams?**

No.

You will have completed two HSC exams in your Year 11 school year, this will set you up well for the HSC examinations at the end of your Year 12 school year. You will have had experience with the pressure that the HSC exams bring, the study approach that is required and be able to make changes in how you approach your final year of senior study.

Indeed, studying for just two examinations at the end of Year 11 will be a nice way to ease yourself into the reality of HSC exams rather than studying for 3.

### **Will Year 11 Maths and English lessons continue during study break for the HSC exams?**

Yes.

This will be important to get the minimum hours needed for each subject. However, in the three days leading up to your HSC exam, you will not come to school, but will have the time to study for your particular subject in the comfort of your own home without having to worry about your English and Maths lessons.

At the end of 2024, you will sit two HSC exams, and in 2025, you will sit the remaining HSC exams (three-four exams).

### **When will Foundation Studies start for the current Year 10?**

You will start Foundation Studies for your two HSC 'electives' this year in Term 4, Week 6. You will also continue some of your Year 9/10 subjects during this time as well as participate in a number of other exciting new initiatives. You will be expected to be at school full-time during this time. You will then commence your Year 11 Maths and English subjects at the start of 2024.