

## **Year 12s' final year of schooling disrupted due to COVID-19 as they move to remote learning**



A Victorian high-school empty as students learn remotely due to COVID-19

The closure of Victorian schools for the duration of term two due to the coronavirus pandemic means primary school and secondary school students are continuing their education remotely. Students will only attend school if they cannot be supervised by a parent or guardian at home.

Year 12 VCE student Olivia, who attends Siena College, said she thinks online classes are not going to work.

“It’s just not the same, it’s not as effective as being in class and sitting with a teacher, being there and asking questions,” Olivia said.

“For privacy reasons...it’s only audio, and then through mid-class something will happen, and we’ll have to fix the technical difficulties, and there’s a lot of distractions. It’s not going to work.”

Prior to the term break, Olivia said her school ran one day of online classes. She said due to the different environment, she struggled to maintain her focus on what was occurring in class.

VCE Literature teacher, Charles Ayre, said he does not believe that remote learning will affect his students’ ability to learn.

“I think if they’re still willing to learn they can ask me questions,” Charles said.

Students and teachers are still unsure as to what will determine the Year 12’s ATAR scores, as the Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority (VCAA) has not announced a concrete plan, said Charles.

“My understanding is exams are now pushed back to December and I think the GAT is going to be late October or early November...and exams will start after that, which is pretty full on.”

Olivia said VCAA has not told them a plan of what is going to happen, and it is making her stressed.

“I think the number one thing they should do is tell us what is going to happen – if our ATAR is going to be from our Year 11 scores and our GAT scores or if we’re gonna do exams in December or even February.”

Victorian Premier, Daniel Andrews, announced on April 6 that VCE exams will be postponed until December at the earliest, and the GAT would take place in late October or early November. Students without home internet who attend government schools will be offered free sim cards and dongles, so they are able to learn from home and will not be disadvantaged.

VCAA announced on April 15 that school-based assessment tasks will be reduced wherever possible and will be more flexible in allowing students to undertake SACs at home as they learn remotely during term 2.