



## The Hon James Merlino MP

Deputy Premier  
Minister for Education

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Dear Year 12 student,

I'm writing to thank you all for your extraordinary efforts and patience as we grapple with coronavirus (COVID-19) and the challenges it brings.

You have done an amazing job in adapting to these strange and difficult times. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank your parents, carers and families – for being your support squad, all while dealing with the effects the pandemic has had on their own lives.

I recognise that this has been a school year like no other, and the disruptions have been profound. This is especially the case for you as part of the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) Class of 2020.

Victorian students, and their parents and carers, are rightly concerned about how the pandemic will affect your VCE results and Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

I completely understand any stress and anxiety you might be feeling, and want you to know that the Victorian Government is taking significant measures to ensure all our VCE students are treated fairly.

I'm pleased to advise you that every Victorian student will be assessed and VCE scores and ATAR ranks adjusted as necessary, to account for any impact this pandemic has on your results.

This means no VCE student will be disadvantaged by the effects of coronavirus (COVID-19).

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) will introduce a new Consideration of Educational Disadvantage process to calculate VCE scores.

This will take into account any disruptions to your learning caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

The VCAA will consider a range of data, including:

- information provided by schools about students' expected achievement levels
- school assessments completed prior to remote and flexible learning
- the General Achievement Test (GAT).

This information will then be considered with your exam results, and the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on each student, to calculate your final VCE scores and ATAR.

This may include significant impacts such as:

- school closures
- long absences
- dealing with substantial extra responsibilities at home
- impacts on student health and wellbeing and/or your immediate family
- ongoing issues with remote learning

- mental health challenges.

These measures will mean that you, and every VCE student, can go into your exams with confidence knowing you won't be disadvantaged, and that your final scores will take into account both your exam performance and your individual circumstances.

This new process will be in addition to important steps already taken by VCAA, such as:

- reducing course content and assessments for Unit 4
- rescheduling the GAT
- extending Term 4 for VCE students with exams to be held later in the year.

The VCE exam timetable will not change and the VCE and VCAL results will still be released on 30 December. This means students eligible for an ATAR will receive their scores by the end of the year.

I know that you will continue working hard, and trust this brings you some peace of mind which will allow you to focus on and put your best efforts into your exams ahead. We will be supporting you the entire way.

Thank you again for persevering in these challenging times.

Take care, stay safe, and good luck.

Yours sincerely



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