



29 May 2009

Mr Brian Hanley  
Principal  
St Monica's College  
16 Davisson Street  
EPPING 3076

Dear Brian

I am writing to all schools closed due to H1N1 Influenza (Human Swine Flu) quarantine requirements in the period up to and including the VCE examinations from 9-11 June 2009.

I understand that you will have put in place special arrangements to support VCE students in this challenging circumstance and wish to assure you that the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) will support schools, students and parents to ensure all VCE students are assessed fairly.

The VCAA has the Derived Examination Score (DES) process for students affected by illness or other exceptional circumstances in the period leading up to any VCE examinations. This circumstance where schools have been closed before or during the examination period is an exceptional circumstance that makes your school eligible to receive a Group DES for your students.

This means that where students have lost valuable preparation and classroom time leading up to the examinations or where students have been unable to sit an examination due to quarantine arrangements, your school may make a Group DES application.

The DES for each affected study/examination will be calculated at the end of the school year and is based on the individual student's performance in other school based assessments and examinations in that study. Where the DES is higher than the student's achieved score, the DES will be used for June examination results in Accounting, Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics and Psychology

The derived examination score does not apply to the General Achievement Test (GAT). Students should be encouraged to do their best in all assessed course work and examinations to ensure that their final result reflects this.

Under the circumstances, schools may need to allow for flexible submission of school assessed coursework. If a school is unable to meet the 27 July 2009 deadline for reporting results from school assessed coursework, you should contact the Student Records and Results Unit on 9651 4376 as soon as possible to discuss this.

The VCAA is continuing to monitor the situation and is asking schools to contact the VCAA Special Provision Unit on 9225 2219 or 1800 205 455 to obtain the Group DES application form and also to inform the VCAA of any other further developments.

I appreciate the significant efforts you and your school communities are making to support VCE students through this circumstance and I wish to assure you that the VCAA will support you in this role. Please feel free to use this letter to communicate with your VCE students and their families.

Yours sincerely



**JOHN FIRTH**

Chief Executive Officer