

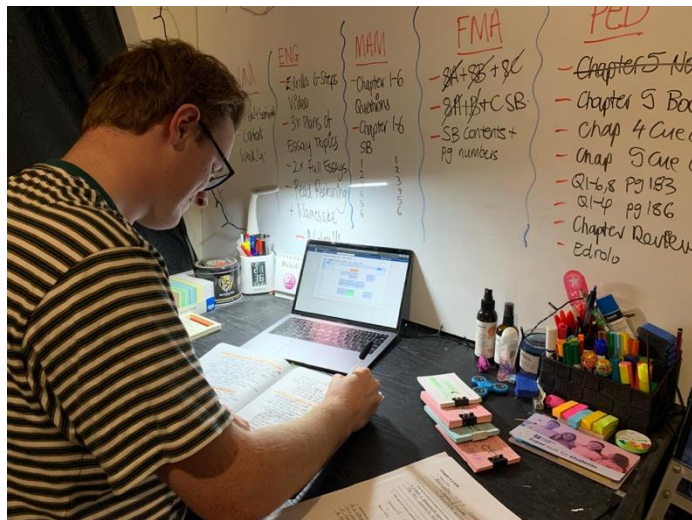
## Bayden Hill, College Captain

Firstly, I hope everyone is staying well and healthy during these times of uncertainty and disturbance. The current situation we are in is full of unknowns, but I hope that everyone is maintaining a positive mindset and holds an optimistic outlook for the future.

The switch to online learning has now become a reality and as frightening the thought may be, we as a community will adapt and endeavour to utilise this new way of learning to maximise our potential.

Online learning may initially seem to be a challenge for all of us, however it enables everyone the opportunity to gain a sense of independence and responsibility in our own learning. Many challenges and issues may arise along the way however, we must endeavour to keep our mindsets positive and we are still able to do so by seeking the support of our friends and teachers, just through different outlets.

Trust me, I personally run on a social lifestyle and being without my friends and teachers will be a personal challenge for me especially. I will miss the opportunity to study on Wednesday afternoons in study groups and sitting in class bouncing ideas off one another, however, switching to online learning does not mean this has to stop.



Most of us have a phone, some of us are connected via Microsoft Teams and the opportunity to email is also very accessible, meaning just because we are unable to have face-to-face contact, we still have the opportunity to ask questions via facetime, email or texting.

At this current time, I would like to say a huge thank you to all our teachers for their support now and into the future. Some of us may be unaware of how much extra our teachers have been putting in, whether it be uploading lesson plans, resources or setting up online programs or access points for us as students. If you do get a spare moment, ensure to thank your teachers for everything they have done to help us adapt during the current situation.

I understand the difficult nature of these turmoil times, however, we are able to take these coming weeks as a time to reflect and improve on our personal development, along with continuing to develop our Bentleigh community by staying united and connected with one another.

I encourage you to continue checking up on your friends through technology and online pathways and continue to self-isolate and distance yourselves in order for us as a community to come out of this challenge as more open-minded, well-equipped students and people.

## **Tia Lambas, College Captain**

It was only 2 weeks ago that our last day of term arrived early due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A strange and unusual experience for all of us. I'm sure many of us had a totally different vision of how the New Year would pan out. I, for one, certainly could not have imagined something like this happening. As a school captain this year, I envisioned that my year would include memorable moments like organizing fundraisers with the SRC team, working closely with teachers and staff members on student voice and agency, being a part of the formal committee, having my last athletics carnival, taking part in the school musical for the last time, and building strong bonds with my year 12 teachers and cohort that I would cherish forever.



Although what we may have hoped would happen didn't, I feel as though the strength of the Bentleigh Secondary College community has immensely grown from this. I commend our wonderful teachers and staff for preparing us to deal with the adversity that we are all facing, and virtually being by our sides. Online learning has given me so many useful life skills, such as self-discipline, time management, and a deeper understanding of various communication portals that some of us don't use so often in school and may be useful for our future. So far, my experiences with online learning have been nothing unexpected and unbearable because of our teachers and their organisation. Thank you.

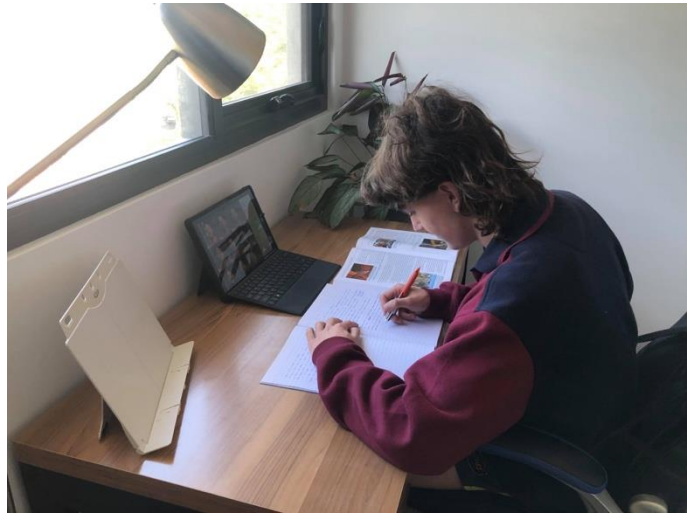
Also, I am so proud of the way you, my fellow peers, are adapting and being very productive given the short amount of time we had to adjust to being at home and participating in virtual learning. It is our job as students of Bentleigh Secondary College to keep on being positive, persistent, brave, and empathetic. I know that it is easier said than done. However, as I have reached out to other family members and friends over the past few weeks, one thing that I have realised is that we should approach this unprecedented situation together, ready to learn from it. Take this time to not only keep up with the news and stay on top of schooling, but to also learn more about yourself and who you are as a person. Take this time to learn about each of your family members and the people you are living with. Take this time to reminisce about your most cherished memories, look back on photos and videos and be grateful for what we have.

I also encourage you to virtually reach out to your loved ones as a coping mechanism for yourselves and to also see how they're going. It is so important that we stand by each other in this difficult time. I know that we will all get through this, together. So please, stay optimistic, keep striving, be appreciative of those around you, and remember that you are not alone.

## **Jackson Hall, Deputy College Captain**

Studying year 12 at home, I never thought that I would be saying that. While it is a very unknown and uncomfortable experience for most of us within the Bentleigh community, it's also a perfect and unique opportunity to take your learning into your

own hands. With the removal of classroom distractions, there is a huge opportunity to enhance your academic knowledge as you move to study at home. It is also an amazing opportunity to learn more about yourselves and those within your home. Read books, stay on top of the news and continue to enhance your real-world knowledge. Cook dinner for your family, help out with washing up. Build your own person character and continue to be the best version of yourself. This is an amazing opportunity to find out who you are and what you truly enjoy.



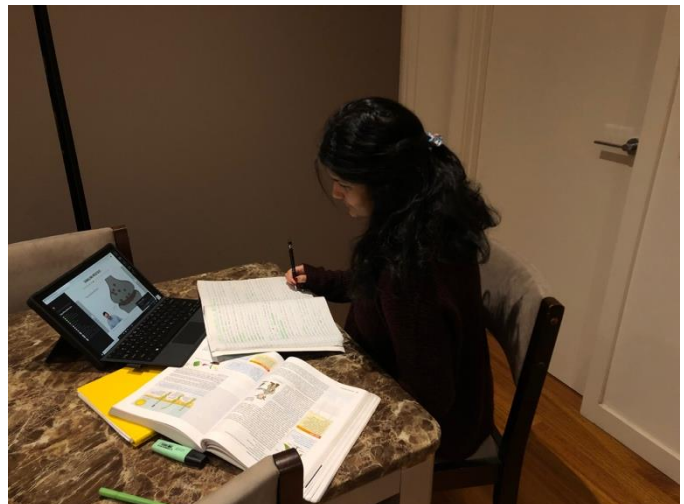
Even though we are faced with the threat of a global pandemic, we are lucky to be growing up in a time where social media is ever present in society. While we may be physically isolated, we are still able to stay connected with our friends and family online. Please, make sure to check in on others as we are all going through these tough times together. You never know how much a simple conversation can help someone going through a tough period of time.

Stay active and exercise, keep doing what you enjoy and most importantly, stay connected with those you love.

### **Rishika Naik, Deputy College Captain**

In the recent weeks, Bentleigh Secondary College has seen many changes that would have been otherwise unprecedented if not for the remote learning plan set into motion by the staff and community.

Through online learning resources, students have been and will continue maintaining the quality of their education from the comfort of their own home, even in such trying times. This will enable us to develop our independence and work ethic, while still being able to contact any of our teachers and ask for help. One shortcoming is the fact that we would not be able to see our friends. However, the knowledge that they are safe and self-isolating for the greater good, is enough. We have all been communicating with our friends, extended family, and loved ones through the use of technology.



Maintaining connectivity in such times is integral to our wellbeing, so we must not lose contact with those that matter to us most. It is important that we take care our mental health as well as our physical health in this time. Reach out to loved ones and don't be afraid to speak up, all of us have been affected by this pandemic to some degree. We need now, more than ever to be kind and compassionate towards each other.

I am confident that everyone will be able to adapt to this new method of learning while remaining active in the community. When faced with such a large-scale issue, our best choice is to stand in solidarity and give every opportunity our best shot. The challenges we face are significant but through hard work and perseverance, there is nothing the Bentleigh community cannot overcome.

Finally, I hope that we all not only stay on top of our work, but make sure to take care of ourselves and one another. Nothing is more important than the safety of our community. Stay safe and stay positive!