

HSC COWORKS PRESENTS...

**SUMMER
HOLIDAYS
STUDY
GUIDE**



USING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS TO THE FULL POTENTIAL



The summer holidays are of course an important time to recharge the batteries and relax with friends and family. 2025 saw the completion of the preliminary HSC course across a fast paced first three terms and of course the first term of Year 12. It makes sense that students will be ready to have a break from the books.

However, in addition to having a nice break from school, the summer holidays also presents a very important opportunity to consolidate knowledge and skills from Term 4, look ahead for Term 1 and start 2026 in the best possible position. Next year will be even more fast paced as students work through the remaining HSC coursework, complete seemingly endless assessments and exams, and also do all the other things that teenagers love doing in their final year of High School.

For the student who doesn't utilise the summer break effectively, the proactive work that could have been completed will need to be condensed into an already very busy schedule next year.

Our recommendation is to continue 'climbing' and working through to December 11th (roughly) and then have a solid 3-4 weeks off. By January 12th all students should be back at it with the goal of hitting the ground running at the start of Term 1 (Feb 2nd).

Our Summer Holidays Study Guide provides detailed tips on how you can maximise this time off school and start the year strong in 2026!

HSC FUN FACTS

- Year 12 students started school 4,500 days ago as kindergarten students.
- 25% of HSC 2026 is already complete.
- From February 2nd to October 31st there are only 272 days which equates to approximately 5.6% of your total time at school (since starting at Kindergarten).
- By April, more than 50% of your HSC year will be complete.

ENGAGE YOUR VISION

Unless you are excited about what is awaiting you at the top of Mount HSC, it is going to be difficult to generate the motivation and energy to get to the peak of the mountain.

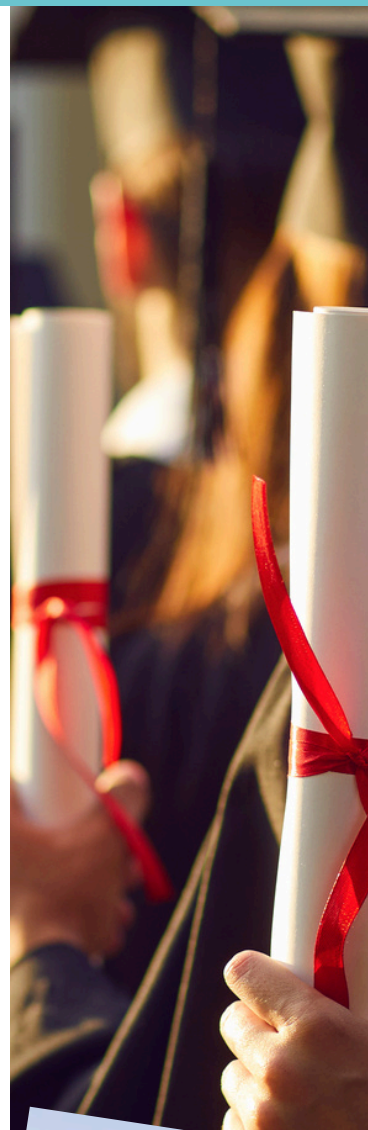
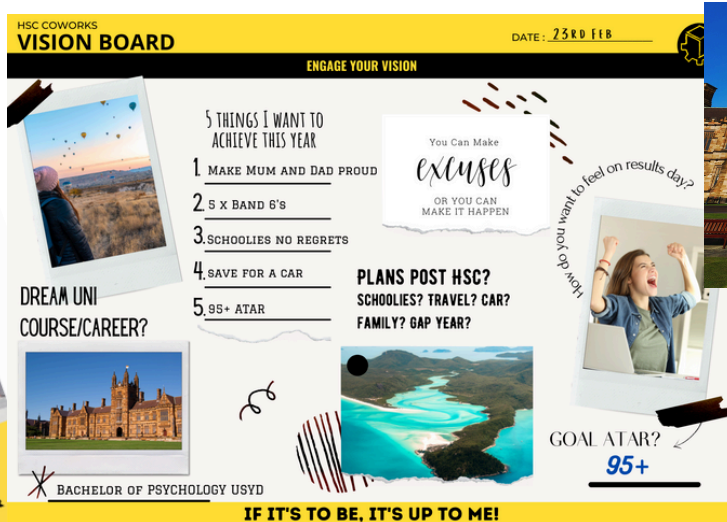
The summer break is a great opportunity to get excited around the future that can be created with a great HSC campaign.

What are some possible options for Uni? Would you like to stay close to home for University or travel interstate? Who inspires you to achieve your best and what path did they take to achieve their goals? What are your dream travel destinations in your early 20's?

The more clarity you have around the exciting benefits, rewards and feelings awaiting you at the top of Mount HSC the easier it will be to complete your summer break tasks and stay motivated in 2026.

If you haven't already got an inspirational vision board up in your study area at home the summer break is the perfect time to create one. A vision board that inspires you to do the tasks you don't want to do each and every day is one of the most important steps you can take towards making your HSC vision your HSC reality. If you already have your vision board in place, it's time for a revamp to maintain it's relevance to your current goals.

Download the HSC CoWorks Vision Board template [here](https://www.hsccoworks.com.au).



PLAN YOUR WORK AND WORK YOUR PLAN

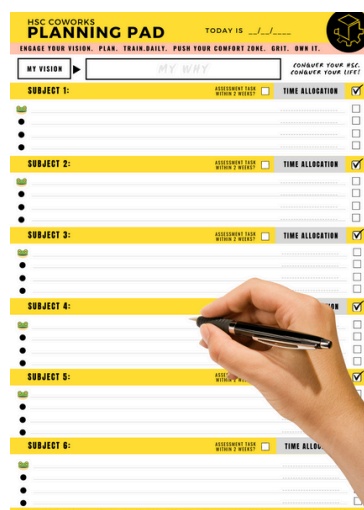
7-9 weeks of school holidays is a long time, however in between Christmas preparation, travel, social gatherings, relaxing at the beach and any other commitments you might have, you could easily lose track of how much time you actually have to accomplish the tasks that will set you up for a strong 2026.

With planning in mind, it is important to note that there are no secrets around what is coming up for HSC students in 2026. The syllabus document outlines what is assessable/examinable and outlines that there will be assessments, the Trial Exams, major works and the Final HSC exams.

The only thing stopping someone pushing ahead with being on top of the course work would be excuses such as *'I can't start that as we haven't started it at school'*. No one is expected to teach themselves the course work, but progress can certainly be made if finishing with no regrets is the goal.

The first step towards planning for the summer break is to list out the most important tasks to complete before starting back at school in February. When identifying these tasks it's very important to keep in mind that 25% of the HSC is already complete and by early April we will be more than 50% of the way through HSC 2026. By late June the majority of all course work will be completed in preparation for the Trial exams in late July. We recommend the use of the CoWorks planning pad in each of your study sessions.

The key ideas to keep in mind when planning are:

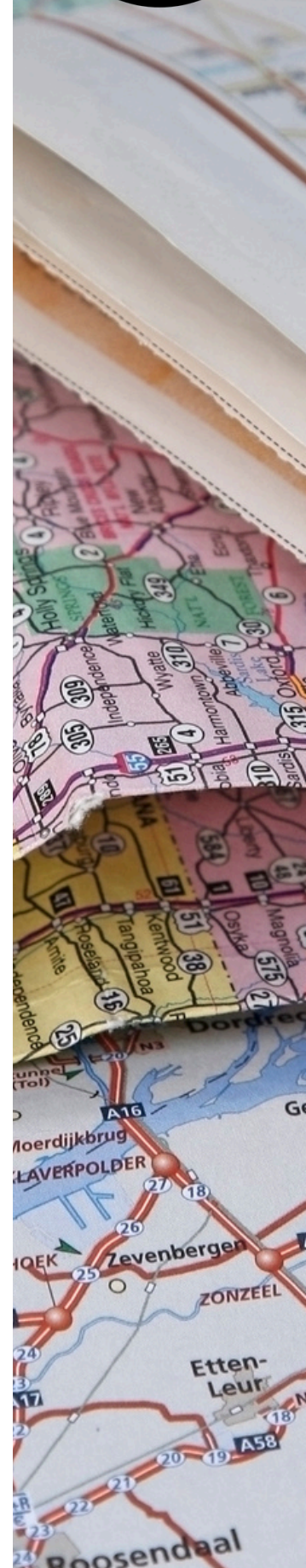


- Ask yourself, 'what tasks can I complete today which will put me in a stronger position for my next set of assessment tasks?'
- Break larger tasks into smaller chunks so you can tick some tasks off before going to the beach or hanging out with friends.
- Always stay proactive by looking at what is coming in Term 1 and 2 as this will help you determine the most important tasks
- Always 'eat frogs first'. The more tasks you can complete that you don't want to do them anyway the stronger your position come February.

Download the HSC CoWorks Planning Pad template [here](https://www.hscoworks.com.au).

The future depends on what you do in the present.

Mahatma Gandhi



CONSOLIDATE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

This is the best opportunity students will have to carefully and concisely review the topics which were studied in the first Term of Year 12 so these topics can effectively be 'signed off' before they are revisited again for half yearly exams (often run in late March), the Trial Exams and the final HSC exams.

Often the first assessment tasks are very specific to a particular aspect of the overall topic studied however in later assessments the whole topic is examinable. While the content is fresh this is the perfect time to ensure that all aspects of the topic have been covered by attempting a range of exam style practice questions.

Not only will this process boost your confidence heading into the second term of Year 12 (February to April), but it will also help eliminate any unnecessary stress that may arise throughout the rest of year 12 from any unresolved content issues. The more you can stay on top of your content throughout the HSC process, the less stressed and overwhelmed you will feel for the final 75% of your HSC.

How to identify development areas?

- Can you recall mindmaps for topics studied from memory?
- Would you feel confident explaining all concepts/key points outlined in the syllabus document to a family member or friend?
- Can you easily recall the themes as well as 5-10 quotes for your Term 4 English text?
- Have you attempted lots of different exam style questions for topics completed in Term 4?

How to consolidate your knowledge?

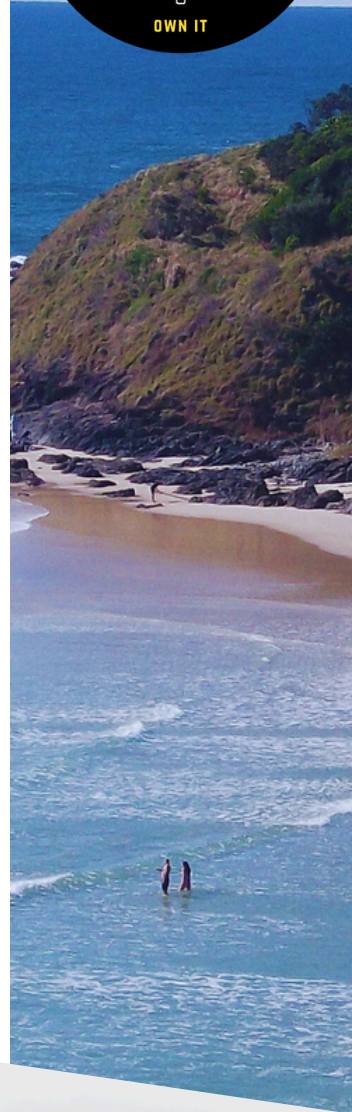
- Create syllabus/topic mindmaps and then train your brain by writing these out under exam conditions.
- Teach a family member a topic you are studying.
- Attempt as many exam style questions for Term 4 topics as possible.

Download the HSC CoWorks Mindmap pad template [here](https://www.hscoworks.com.au)

'IF IT'S TO BE..
IT'S UP TO ME'



OWN IT



GET AHEAD OF THE PACK:

GET CURIOUS

The majority of all course work will be finished by the end of June ahead of the Trial Exams. This means that the period between now and June will be fast paced and intense with new content being covered while also dealing with assessment tasks on this new content.

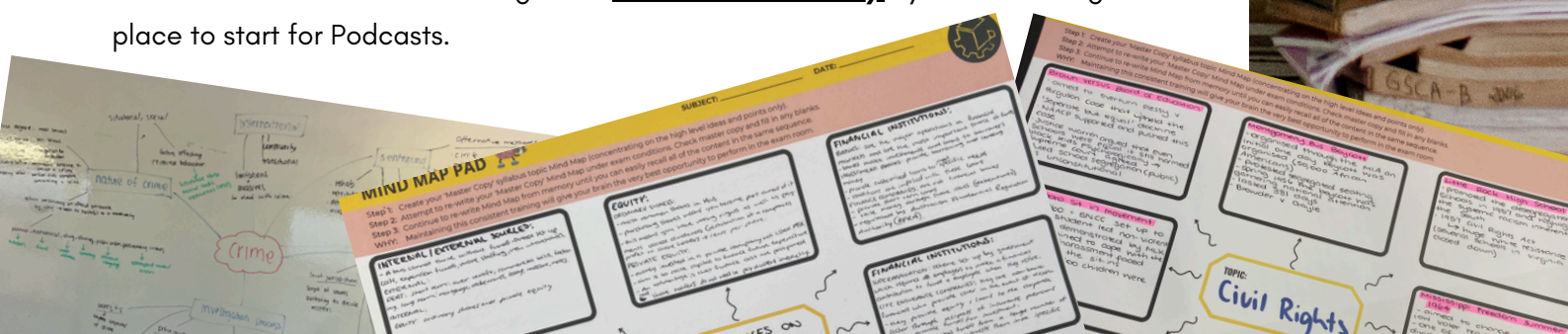
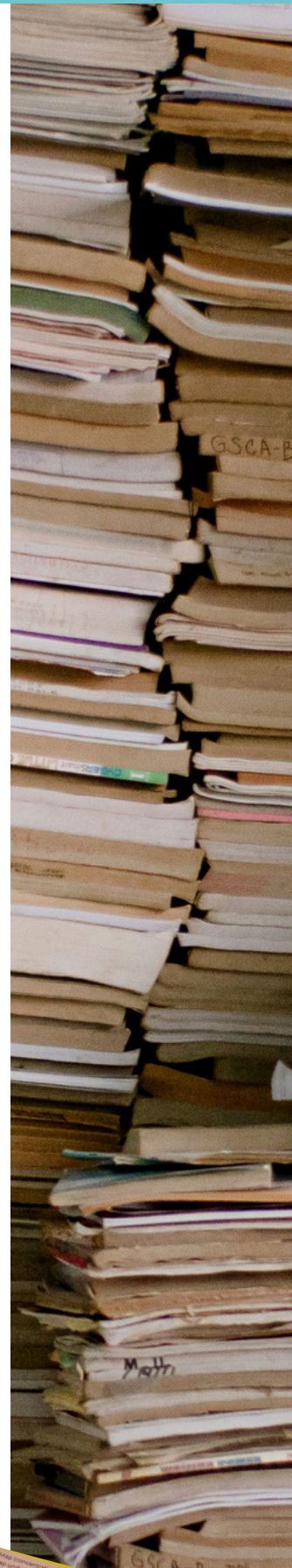
The brain craves certainty and there is a lot of uncertainty coming up for Year 12 students. This uncertainty lies in the questions, 'What is the content that is still to be covered' and 'How am I going to perform in the exams?'

The more progress made over the summer break towards getting the brain fired and wired around what is coming up, the less uncertainty a student will have. The summer break is the ultimate opportunity to build brain circuitry around what is coming up ahead of it being covered at school. The less certainty our brain has the more likely we will go into a state of being overwhelmed and anxious.

How can you get curious?

The good news is that it doesn't take much effort to get ahead of the pack by looking ahead and being curious. Watch movies, You Tube Videos and Documentaries; Listen to Podcasts. There are endless ways you can get curious around your coursework. Here are some examples:

- Build syllabus topic mind maps for all upcoming topics
- Do your own research on upcoming topics including using your textbook
- Read and research your English texts for 2026
- Teach a family member about each of your upcoming topics based on your research.
- *Business Studies?* Watch the **Qantas Four Corners episode** or Listen to the **How I Built This Podcast on the amazing story of Canva.com**. Both will provide real world examples which can be used as your case study examples.
- *Modern History?* Watch documentaries, YouTube or listen to podcasts to get a better idea of how all the events link together. **'In Our Time: History'** by the BBC is a great place to start for Podcasts.



MAJOR WORKS

For students doing a major work, the summer holidays are your best opportunity to bring your work to life outside of the very busy school terms. April and July holidays will be largely focused on preparing for all subject assessments and the Trial Exams.

It's worth noting that major works are due around the same time as the Trial Exams. If students have not made appropriate progress throughout the HSC year their Trial Exam preparation and performance (covering ALL topics) will suffer.

Here are some tips:

Tip #1 – Refine & Consolidate

The first term of year 12 has involved a lot of idea generation, so now it's time to get more specific. Consolidate the ideas that you believe really have potential (both conceptual and practical) and once you are satisfied with the number of ideas (3 -5 is good), write a mock proposal for each one. Explain in 200 words what the concept is, and either write (for those Ext 2 English and Ext History students) or create (art, drama, DT, etc...) samples of your works. This will help you narrow down those ideas that will really take off.

Tip #2 – Don't forget to research

While it can be fun to get caught up in the practical side, it's very common for students to return in Term 1 and realise they are far behind on the research aspect of their ideas. You should generally spend an equal amount of time researching as you do creating and brainstorming.

Tip #3 – Talk about it

To friends, parents or mentors.. talking about your idea will help you gain new ideas for your work and understand whether or not the idea has legs. If no one gets it, it's possible you have to have another look. In contrast, they could say – '*great idea! Have you thought about (x) or (y)?*' leading to a new insight for yourself.

Tip #4 – Plan like there's no tomorrow

Planning is crucial! See Study Tip #2 for details on how to plan effectively and don't forget to use your HSC CoWorks Planning Pad!

Tip #5 – Keep the stress to a minimum

Major works are fun! They're an extension of you and a representation of your interests, passions and thoughts! By making progress on your Major work over the summer break you will free up a lot of time to study for your other subjects later in the year. You won't be able to produce a major work you are proud of if you are in a panic to get it done while also studying for your Trial Exams.



DON'T UNDERESTIMATE READING & RESEARCH

The school holidays represents a time where you can tick off the less onerous tasks and allow yourself to do some additional research on your upcoming topics. Once the school term starts, your opportunity to sit down to read and undertake further research is largely diminished with the scarcity of time.

So get curious this summer and you might actually find out that your HSC topics are quite interesting! By reading and researching, you will be forced to think more critically around your work. If you are thinking more critically around the topics being studied you will be more engaged in the subject matter. If you are more engaged you will be more motivated to apply your increased level of critical thinking to exams and assessment tasks.

Business Studies student? Develop an intimate knowledge of all aspects of your business case study e.g. [Qantas](#), Apple. The goal here is to be able to confidently give a 3min presentation on this company to anyone willing to listen and relate it to the [syllabus](#). The 'How I Built This' Podcast series is outstanding and highly applicable to the Business Studies course. Start with the [Canva episode](#).

Modern History student? Watch some documentaries on a topic or conflict being studied. Watch YouTube [videos](#), listen to podcasts and read news [articles](#)/books written by historians about your topics to get a better overall idea of how all the events link together. The Modern History Lessons in the portal have a variety of additional resource recommendations.

Economics student? Develop an intimate knowledge of your case study country. Complete research on the Reserve Bank of Australia, IMF, WTO and other [reputable websites](#) for the Economic policies that have made the country what it is today. Also keep a running document where you record any major changes in the economy e.g. exchange rate, [interest rate](#), budget changes



DON'T UNDERESTIMATE READING & RESEARCH cont.

GETTING CURIOUS

Ancient History student? Watch documentaries or TV series on Pompeii or your other elective topics. There are some great ones on Netflix and YouTube. Also read any current news articles on new discoveries or historians books on past finds.

Biology/Chemistry/Physics student? Use the syllabus to identify topics you will be studying in the upcoming term then source some YouTube summary videos to get familiar. Build syllabus mind maps for all upcoming topics.

Mathematics student? Spend time revising previous topics by completing all chapter reviews and portal challenge questions to consolidate knowledge. Look ahead at the upcoming topics and go through the last 6 years of HSC exams looking at the different types of questions you can expect in 2026.

Drama student? Begin researching and planning for your major work and performances. Watch as many examples online, particularly Youtube where you can source great monologues and extracts. Keep a running document on your research for your major and group presentation with all ideas and resources

Visual Arts student? Continue consolidating your ideas for your major, research widely online as to examples from previous years (search ArtExpress for the top works), and keep a running document of all your progress for your log book. Begin sourcing any materials you need or start draft/sample works

Studies of Religion student? Watch documentaries or read articles/books on your set topics. There are some great videos on YouTube and Netflix relating to these which we suggest you watch

Legal Studies student? Source some summary videos on YouTube for your key topics to refine your understanding on them in an international and domestic legal context. Keep a running document of any changes to legislation or debates over legal topics you see in the news or online. Also look at case study documentaries on famous Australian crime/human rights cases (e.g. The Trials of Dr Haneef, Dr Daniel Lanzer, Dr Charlie Teo, Perth's Banksia Hill detention centre, Don Dale, etc.).



DON'T UNDERESTIMATE READING & RESEARCH cont.

READING & RESEARCH

Geography student? Develop an intimate knowledge of all aspects of the syllabus by watching any relevant documentaries or summary videos online for syllabus topics like the sustainability of economic activity Vita-culture, Sydney as a large-city case study, and the biodiversity of the Great Barrier Reef

Extension English student? Begin brainstorming and drafting for your major project. Research widely, watch relevant YouTube videos on areas of interest and keep a running document of all research for your log book. Book a Zoom an Expert with Tim or one of our other English teachers, to discuss your texts and ideas.

History Extension student? Develop an intimate knowledge of your selected major work topic and case study. Watch relevant YouTube or Netflix documentaries, read historians books and keep up to date with recent news articles on your topic. Begin drafting your essay and keep a running log of all resources found.

Health and Movement Science student? Get familiar across all topics covered in the syllabus so far and those upcoming by watching YouTube summary videos on relevant topics.

English student? Develop an intimate knowledge of your selected texts by watching YouTube summary videos or movie versions of your texts. Read relevant articles analysing or critiquing your text and keep notes on all.

We have dedicated 'summer series' and 'preparing for Y12' challenge feed questions that you can find by searching these names in the challenge feed. We also have a range of great podcast resources in the challenge feed across a variety of subjects. Search 'podcast' in the challenge feed to see what ones are available for your subjects.

If you are uncertain about what research you can be doing for each of your subjects, check in with a CoWorks Coach before the school holidays start.



JANUARY STUDY BOOTCAMP



YEAR 12 JANUARY STUDY BOOTCAMP

Dates: Monday 19th - Friday 23rd January 2026

Times: 10:00am - 2:00pm

Cost: \$575

Locations: Mosman Campus (Gurrigal Street, Mosman)

Get ready to kickstart your HSC journey in 2026 with our annual January Study Bootcamp!

This 5 day program is designed to help you build momentum and prepare for a strong start to the year

✅ **Gain an edge:** Our Study Bootcamp is tailored to provide you with the essential tools and strategies to succeed in your first term of 2026. From effective study techniques to time management skills, we've got you covered.

🔥 **Boost your productivity:** With focused, structured sessions and expert guidance from the coaching team, you will learn how to optimise your study routine and make the most of your time. Say goodbye to procrastination and hello to maximum productivity!

💡 **Stay motivated:** Surround yourself with like-minded students who are also determined to achieve their goals. Our Bootcamp creates a supportive and encouraging environment that will keep you motivated throughout the program and ensure you hit the ground running after a long summer break.

🎯 **Ready to level up your preparation?** The January Study Bootcamp is focused on revision and consolidation of Term 4 topics and texts, looking ahead at upcoming topics and texts and building momentum towards a strong start to the year.

As we say at CoWorks, '*you don't have to recover from a good start*' so our mission at Bootcamp is to get students off to a great start to the second term of their HSC.

Monday 19th - Friday 23rd January 2026

10am-2pm

Limited places available.

BOOK NOW >



WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS?

@ HSC COWORKS

We are closed between December 12th and January 11th.

During this time we encourage students to have a break after a busy 1st term of Year 12.

Although the summer holidays are an important time for students to take a break, they also present as a fantastic opportunity to make progress with foundational content and build awareness of topics that will be covered in the remainder of the HSC year.

Once Term 1 2026 comes around, it will be a fairly relentless period of covering content and being assessed on this content all the way through to October.

Whilst there are no sessions between December 12th and January 11th, the HSC CoWorks portal will remain active and we encourage students to utilise the resources and tools online to get ahead and receive expert feedback from our experienced HSC marking team.

Coaching sessions resume on January 12th and students should attend their weekly support sessions at this point so that they are prepared to hit the ground running when Term 1 2026 starts.

YEAR 12 PROGRAM 2025/2026			
October '25 YEAR 12 PROGRAM STARTS OCTOBER 13 Students start attending their weekly coaching sessions.	November Regular weekly coaching sessions are on.	Dec & Jan CLOSED DEC 12 - JAN 11 Regular weekly coaching sessions are on 12 JAN - 31 JAN Closed Australia Day Monday January 26	February Regular weekly coaching sessions are on.
March Regular weekly coaching sessions are on.	April Regular weekly coaching sessions are on. Closed Easter Weekend Fri April 3 - Mon April 6 Closed ANZAC Day Saturday April 25 + OPTIONAL HOLIDAY STUDY BOTCAMP	May Regular weekly coaching sessions are on.	June Regular weekly coaching sessions are on. Open King's Birthday long weekend Sat June 6 - Mon June 8
July Regular weekly coaching sessions are on. + OPTIONAL HOLIDAY STUDY BOTCAMP	August Regular weekly coaching sessions are on.	September Regular weekly coaching sessions are on. + OPTIONAL HOLIDAY STUDY BOTCAMP	October Students continue to attend their weekly coaching session/s until their final HSC exam! + OPTIONAL HOLIDAY STUDY BOTCAMP

[Click here to enlarge the HSC 2026 Year 12 program calendar](#)

AS WE SAY AT HSC COWORKS...

**“YOU DON’T HAVE
TO RECOVER FROM
A STRONG START”**

