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Wednesday 13 May 2020

Dear parents and carers,

### Re Further arrangements of student return to onsite learning

Thank you for all your support during these past few weeks of remote and flexible learning.

Following advice from the Chief Health Officer, the Victorian Government has advised that schools can begin a phased return to on-site schooling.

In the **first stage**, senior secondary (Year 11 and 12 VCAL and VCE) students will return to the College from Tuesday 26 May.

Year 10 students undertaking VCE studies, including VCE VET studies, should also attend school for those classes. If this is not possible for your child/children, our teachers will make sure the work provided to students attending at school is also provided to your child/children.

To support all school staff to prepare for this transition, Monday 25 May will be a pupil-free day. As this is a pupil free day, staff will not be providing online work for students who are remote learning.

In the **second stage** of our return to on-site schooling, Year 7, 8, 9 & 10 students will return to the College from Tuesday 9 June.

For those students who cannot be supervised at home and vulnerable children, the existing model of on-site schooling will remain in place during the two-week period from Tuesday 26 May to Tuesday 9 June. The current process that we are using to enable parents and carers to indicate the days or part-days for which on-site schooling is required will continue for this two-week period. Parents and carers in this situation must notify the College beforehand to discuss approval criteria. The Department of Education (DET) requires a declaration stating this need by essential workers to be completed and signed before the onsite learning can begin, and for each week after. Please do not send your child to school unannounced.

All other students in Year 7, 8, 9 & 10 students will continue learning from home until Tuesday 9 June.

Once a year level has returned, all students will be expected to attend school as normal. This means if you choose to keep your child/children home after their year level has returned to on-site schooling, we can no longer support their learning from home.

This does not apply to children who need to be absent for health or medical reasons. For those families, please contact us so we can make an appropriate plan.

This same approach is being taken by all government schools in Victoria.

To support the health and wellbeing of all our students and staff, our school will continue an enhanced cleaning routine and will encourage frequent hand washing.

If your child is ill or is feeling unwell, they must not attend school. They must remain home and seek medical advice.

While the Chief Health Officer has advised that students will not be required to maintain physical distancing at school, there will be a number of important changes to our school operations, consistent with health advice. This will apply until further notice. I will provide more detail about our local school context as soon as possible, but it is important to note that changes will include:

- Given the multiple entry points into the college we will **not** be rearranging times for drop off and pick up and will not be staggering school start and finish times. We ask that families 'drop off and move on' in the morning and if you are picking up you 'remain in your car and your students come to you'.
- Restrictions on access to the school site for anyone other than immediate school staff and students. We ask that students enter and leave the college from the nearest gate to their residence.
- The way we conduct parent-teacher meetings and interviews will need to change. That means parents and carers must ring or email the school to arrange a tele-meeting to discuss issues and concerns.
- The way you contact the college will change as well. We ask all families to ring the college first to arrange for coming onsite to make payments, deliver or collect paperwork.
- We ask families to make suitable arrangements for snacks and lunches prior to sending children to school. We will be unable to collect and distribute food items on a casual basis.

We understand that some families may feel anxious about this move back to classroom teaching and learning. I can assure you that this decision has been taken on the basis of the best health advice available to our state.

More information about the return to school and coronavirus (COVID-19) can be found on the Department's website, which will continue to be updated:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

Thank you for your continued support and patience during this time. We look forward to welcoming our students back to the classroom.

Yours sincerely,



John Mitsinikos

College Principal