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Friday 18 September 2020

### Re: Term 4 arrangements

Dear families,

On behalf of our college, I want to say a big thank you to all our students, parents and carers for your continued resilience and support during Term 3. I know remote and flexible learning has not always been easy, but through our collective efforts, our students have continued to make valuable progress in their learning.

Term 4 is important for every student, and our teachers will strive to deliver high-quality learning for everyone. Whether we're teaching remotely or face-to-face, our focus for Term 4 is on making sure that every student is supported in their wellbeing, learning and transition needs.

The Victorian Government has outlined the staged return to on-site schooling as part of its gradual roadmap towards reopening.

#### **TERM 4 ON-SITE SCHOOLING ARRANGEMENTS FOR STUDENTS**

Subject to the advice of the Victorian Chief Health Officer, the Victorian Government has released a staged approach for students to return to on-site schooling.

The purpose of the plan is to get students back in the classroom as soon and as safely as possible without putting at risk all that has been achieved through the period of restrictions to reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

To achieve both these aims, the return to onsite learning needs to be staged, just as the easing of all other restrictions is staged.

There are two reasons for this.

The first is that in metropolitan Melbourne, health authorities need to monitor the impact of students and parents beginning to move across the city again before schools move to a full return. Having one million students return to school all at once could compromise the ability to monitor this impact.

The second reason is that VCE students must return in week one of Term 4 and must be able to complete the three-hour General Achievement Test (GAT) on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020. In order to ensure the focus is on these students and the appropriate safety measures are in place, this means no other students can be on-site on our secondary the week before the GAT.

This is the best way to ensure the ongoing safety of the whole community.

#### **For our College, the following arrangements apply:**

##### **5–9 October (first week of Term 4)**

- remote and flexible learning will continue for all students
- VCE and VCAL students can only attend on-site for essential assessments, including the General Achievement Test (GAT) on Wednesday 7 October
- on-site supervision for children of permitted workers and vulnerable students will continue to be provided, consistent with existing guidelines.

#### **From 12 October (second week of Term 4)**

- Year 11 and 12 students will attend on-site schooling full time. Year 10 students enrolled in a VCE or VCAL program will attend for those units only
- remote and flexible learning will continue for all students in Year 7 to Year 10 (except Year 10 students studying VCE and VCAL units)
- on-site supervision will remain available for students in Year 7 to Year 10 who are the children of permitted workers and vulnerable students.

This will continue until a date is set for the return of all students to on-site learning, based on health advice.

#### Health and safety measures

The Term 3 remote and flexible learning arrangements were put in place to significantly reduce the movement of more than one million students and their families across Victoria, to help slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). Thanks to you and your family for contributing to this on behalf of our school community.

As on-site schooling resumes, we will continue to have in place strong measures to protect the health and safety of students, staff, families and the community. This includes the wearing of face masks, and continued emphasis on hand hygiene and physical distancing where possible.

Whether your child is, or children are, returning to face-to-face learning or will be continuing with remote and flexible learning, please be assured we will be focused on three key priorities in Term 4:

#### **Mental health and wellbeing**

Our highest priority will be the wellbeing, particularly the mental health, of every student and member of staff. This means effectively mobilising all available resources to support our most vulnerable students and enabling staff to access the relevant support services.

#### **Learning and excellence**

Some of our students have thrived in the remote and flexible learning environment, others have maintained their learning progress, and some have fallen behind, despite their best efforts and those of their families and teachers. Our priority will be supporting both those who need it to catch up and those who have progressed to continue to extend their learning.

#### **Transitions**

We will make every effort to ensure successful transitions for children moving from Grade 6 into Year 7, and the Year 12s moving into employment or further education and training.

Our school, working with you, has shown it can be flexible and adaptable in responding to the challenges of coronavirus (COVID-19) and will continue to meet student needs as we look towards the end of the 2020 school year and ahead to 2021.

Yours sincerely,



John Mitsinikos

College Principal