



23rd March 2020

Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

As mentioned in my earlier letter today, I now provide further details by way of keeping our community fully informed especially with regard to preparing for likely future remote student learning as well as clarifying some of the issues resulting from yesterday's National Cabinet meeting.

To prepare the College community for the possible transition to student remote learning, the College Executive shares with you the attached plan that includes details about how staff, students and parents can provide support to deliver online learning. It outlines roles and responsibilities for staff, students and parents if and when remote learning is introduced after the upcoming Term 1 holidays.

Please note that while the College is prepared to commence remote learning, it won't always be perfect and we will learn as we go. Our plan includes ways parents and students can be guided as to whom questions should be directed as well as specific expectations associated with all involved in this online learning experience.

For the remainder of this week, teachers are planning and preparing for the likely transition to flexible and remote learning in the anticipation that it may have to be implemented at the start of Term Two. The College Leadership Team and our Education Support Staff are conducting their routine work throughout this period.

Please be reassured that while students, especially senior students may have been allocated some preparation work over this period, remote learning has not yet commenced and therefore students are not expected to be engaged in such learning at this point.

The College Office will remain open as usual for the remainder of this week and then, as is always the case, during the Term One holidays as well.

Meanwhile, the College Leadership team continues to meet regularly to monitor the evolving situation and manage the College's response. At Thursday's Board Meeting, I updated the Board about our Management Plan and was grateful for Board members' advice and support.

Can I please remind our College community that if a staff member or student at our school is a confirmed case or close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19, that I am notified immediately by contacting the College Office.

With our students finishing the term today, I wish them all the best for the break knowing it will be very different to what they are used to. With social-distancing measures, isolation and anxiety around this very challenging and concerning situation, student wellbeing will need to be monitored. I am sure that parents will be very mindful of the need to help reduce their daughter's/son's anxiety and promote her/his health and wellbeing.

Our Student Wellbeing Team has identified the following information which may be of help to parents:

How parents can support their young person:

- Australian Psychological Society information (see attached document)
- World Health Organization (WHO) (see attached document)

Mental health and wellbeing support and advice for students and parents:

Lifeline: <https://www.lifeline.org.au/get-help/topics/mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Beyond Blue: <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/the-facts/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

Support specifically for students:

- please see the attached Headspace fact sheet.
- Kids Helpline support: <https://kidshelpline.com.au/coronavirus#wellbeing>

Our Wellbeing Team will also provide further information about online/telephone counselling that is available from agencies including KidsHelpline, Eheadspace, and Beyond Blue as it becomes available. Our Student Wellbeing Canvas page is accessible to students who are seeking general guidance on aspects of wellbeing and mental health. In addition, our Wellbeing Team will forward information on student self-care and ways to remain occupied during the break, including what supports will be available from our wellbeing staff in the instance of remote learning being introduced in Term 2.

I expect that Term 2 will begin on Tuesday 14 April, which is a student-free day, with students scheduled to return on Wednesday 15 April.

Any changes to these dates will be guided by the ongoing advice of the Chief Health Officer, and will be communicated to parents.

The Department of Health and Human Services has a number of resources on its website, which explain the virus, detail risk-reduction practices and behaviours, and answer frequently asked questions. These are available at www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus.

You can also find information about Catholic education's response to COVID-19 at www.cecv.catholic.edu.au/Coronavirus-information-for-parents.

In the meantime, I thank all in our community for your ongoing understanding as we seek to keep our school communities safe.

Further updates will be provided if there are additional changes.

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact the school directly.

Take care and thank you.

Yours faithfully,



Michael Exton
Principal.