



15th March, 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians,

In view of the unfolding advice regarding the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, I am writing to outline how the College is responding to this extraordinary situation. I would firstly like to reiterate that we will always consider the health and safety of the community in all of our decision making. Secondly, we will always take a conservative approach to support the health and safety of the College community and the community in general.

We are monitoring and are guided by advice from relevant authorities: Victorian Department of Education and Training (DET), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV), Catholic Education Sandhurst (CES) and WorkSafe Vic.

Learning Advisor / Subject Based Interviews

The College has made the decision to postpone interviews scheduled to take place on Tuesday 17th March in Barooga and Wednesday 25th March in Nathalia. Further advice will be provided in early Term 2.

Tuesday 17th March will remain a student free day and staff will be onsite to complete professional development training in preparation for learning continuity in the event that this situation continues to evolve.

Incursions and Excursions - Remainder of Term 1

With the exception of the Year 10 Work Experience program, all incursions and excursions will be postponed or cancelled for the remainder of Term 1. Year 10 parents / guardians please refer to the text message that was sent on Sunday 15th March regarding work experience.

Participation in future College activities and events will be reviewed in light of the advice provided at the time.

Subject Programs

The current social discourse and community conversations centre around the possibility of school closure. At this point in time, school closure is not on the public agenda, nor a directive, however, we are internally preparing in the event that we are required to close. The College has excellent online learning resources and is ready to provide support for students if closure is required to ensure continuity of teaching and learning. Already students and teachers are using a range of online learning tools (SIMON, Google Suite and Edrolo). These platforms allow for teaching activities to take place while students remain at home. Further preparations are underway to ensure that students are fully supported to maintain their learning goals.

What to do if unwell

We advise unwell students and staff to remain at home until symptoms are resolved and to seek medical assistance as required.

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Should any member of our College community have direct contact with someone who has been identified as having or possibly having COVID-19, they are to notify the College immediately, home quarantine for 14 days and contact their GP and arrange testing for the virus. Any staff or students who may be immuno-compromised, or have a family member who is immuno-compromised, may choose to stay at home until they feel comfortable to re-enter the College.

What we can all do

Together we share a social responsibility to support containment measures so that our health system is not overwhelmed to the detriment of vulnerable members of our community. In partnership, we can support each other and especially our young through this extraordinary period. In addition to keeping in contact with the College, parents have a critical role in helping the school manage this situation:

- Insist on good hygiene practices.
- Exercise good judgment by keeping your child home if they are unwell.
- Talk to your child about this situation, as they may be feeling anxious or stressed. Michael Carr-Gregg (via School TV) provides practical suggestions about this. Details can be found in the College newsletter. The College Wellbeing Team is also available to assist and provide support.
- Encourage your child to be proactive and committed to their schoolwork, and to stay connected with the school and their teachers.

This is an evolving and rapidly changing situation, and we will continue to monitor and implement the most current advice in all aspects of our response to COVID-19.

Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the College office.

With Peace and Goodwill,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt" followed by a stylized surname.

Matt Carver
Principal