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Wednesday 13th May

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your ongoing support during the past 4-5 weeks of remote and flexible learning.

Our entire school staff are most grateful for the support of parents in assisting to ensure the period of remote learning has been a success whilst managing the rest of the household and their own work commitments. Our teachers are missing working with their students in person and are continuing to work exceptionally hard to keep everyone connected with school and others in their classes.

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

In the **first stage**, students in Senior Secondary (Years 11 and 12 VCAL and VCE) will return to school from Tuesday 26 May.

Year 10 students undertaking VCE studies, including VCE VET studies, should also attend school for these classes. For their other lessons being delivered remotely, if it is not practical to pick them up to return home on time to continue with their other classes, then they will be placed in a supervised classroom to complete these classes. If it is not possible for your child/children in Year 10 to attend onsite VCE classes, our teachers will make sure the work that is 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.

In the **second stage** of our return to on-site schooling, all other year levels will return to school from Tuesday 9 June.

For those students in Years 7-10 who fit into the exceptional circumstances category, the existing model of on-site schooling will remain in place during the two-week period from Tuesday 26 May to Friday 5 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. (Thus, completion of the exceptional circumstances application form). **Please note that exceptional circumstances may vary between the primary and secondary school sector given the age of students involved.**

All other students in Years 7-10 will continue learning from home until and including Friday 5 June, before returning to school on Tuesday 9 June. (Note: Monday 8 June is Queen's Birthday holiday)

Once your child's 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. All drinking fountains will be turned off and we require students to bring their own water bottle to school each day. Along with other recommended hygiene practices e.g. not sharing drink bottles, food or resources with each other.

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. Students will be reminded to respect staff personal space and the need to follow social distancing protocols with staff. Students will be asked to follow common sense in the yard and not have any physical contact with another student, etc. This will apply until further notice. I will provide any further detail about our local school context as soon as possible, but it is important to note that changes will include:

- potential adjusted arrangements for end of day pick up, including staggered school finish times;
- restrictions on access to the school site for anyone other than immediate school staff and students;
- the way we conduct parent-teacher meetings and interviews

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/departments/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. If you have any questions please call reception and they will direct your inquiry to the appropriate person.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Michelle Roberts', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michelle Roberts
Principal