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Monday 23rd March, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

We are writing to update you on important matters relating to the continuity of learning for our school in a situation that is evolving rapidly. We ask that you take the time to read the following update in order to allay some concerns and provide a framework for how we will move forward together. Many of the points raised in this email will need further clarification which we will endeavour to provide as soon as it becomes available.

Communication

We will continue to update you as we receive information from the Department of Education. This will be both through Compass and via email. As parents and carers, please ensure that you have access to Compass (and that you remember your password) so that you can check updates as they come to hand.

Learning

Holiday homework and consolidation of material covered so far this year is to be completed as usual. After the school holidays, our expectation is for students to continue to work towards their learning goals and we urge students to ensure they remain connected to their teachers and peers through technology. We encourage students to see this as an interruption to face-to-face classes only and that their learning will continue with the completion of benchmark tasks and/or end of year exams in mind.

We would like to reassure you all that our students and teachers already operate in an online environment which they regularly access throughout the day and at home – we see this as a sound base to provide continuity of learning over the coming weeks. Students are already used to accessing content, communicating with their teachers, and submitting work in this online world. It is a learning environment that they have grown up in; what is still relatively new for many of us is a familiar and reassuring structure for them. Teachers have been given the remaining days of this term to prepare for the realities of 'remote learning' and we are confident this will successfully bridge the gap for our students until we return to classes on-site.

Our staff are continuing to work tirelessly through a range of options to support learning continuity for our students by providing suitable learning opportunities that can be completed away from the school setting. These include but are not limited to:

- Google Classroom (please make sure your child has enrolled with each of their teachers/subjects so they can access all shared resources and work to be completed)
- Online resources we currently subscribe to include:
 - Mangahigh (for Years 7-9 Maths) and Essential Assessments for Years 7-10 and VCAL Maths,
 - Edrolo (for a range of VCE subjects),
 - Stile for Science (Years 7-10) and PHET for VCE Physics,
 - Lexia for Years 7-8 and VCAL Literacy,
 - Spellzone for Years 7-9,
 - Read theory for Year 9 Literacy, Quizlet and Socrates.

- DET online website, Learning from Home, Website: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/Pages/coronavirus-home-learning.aspx> and FUSE <https://fuse.education.vic.gov.au/pages/learningfromhome>
- Pre-prepared worksheets or workbooks that can be provided to students in hardcopy if they don't have access to a device or internet at home.

At this stage we are still finalising the daily structure that we will implement for 'remote learning' for the start of next term, however, this will most likely include running our normal school timetable remotely. Please contact your class teacher if you don't have access to the internet at home and require hard copies of learning materials. We will arrange for these to be available for collection at reception via the College office.

VCE and VCAL Assessment

As yet, we do not have any specific advice from the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment authority (VCAA) on how assessment and reporting will occur for students undertaking their VCE and VCAL studies but we anticipate that we will adopt the following measures:

- Unit 3 and 4 (Year 12) – all courses will continue but SAC assessment will be deferred (except for the English oral presentation which will be video recorded) until we return to school or until we receive specific VCAA advice. Advice relating to practical subjects is still to be confirmed.
- Unit 1 and 2 (Year 11) – all courses will continue and assessment can be conducted remotely. If required, additional assessments for authentication will occur once school resumes.
- VCAL tasks will be set and completed remotely where possible.

External VET

It has been officially confirmed that all external VET will be cancelled for this week and the holidays will start one week early. Students will be notified on recommencement via their school emails. Please encourage them to check these for updates. Learning may be in an online environment in the short term.

Structured Workplace Learning

We are assuming that structured workplace learning (VCAL job placements) will be temporarily suspended by the Department of Education but are awaiting for confirmation. Please encourage your child to be in contact with their employer by telephone or email to **defer** their opportunity until after the current situation has been resolved.

Year 10 Work Experience

Given that there is a government directive for all non-essential services to look to working from home, we assume that this also affects students' ability to find work experience. Please reassure students that other opportunities will be explored at a later date to meet any school requirements. For those students who have already found placements, we will advise closer to the date as to whether this will continue.

Student Wellbeing

We will establish a support team with phone numbers to call if students require any wellbeing support during this time. As a community we must work together and support each other through these challenging times.

School Books and Materials

We have asked students in Years 7-12 to take all school books and materials home today. We will provide access 10am-2pm Tuesday to Thursday this week for students who are not currently attending to come and clear their lockers, as we do so at the end of every term, to prepare for cleaning. Please report to the general office first to be assisted by a member of the College leadership team. It is important to make sure that your child does clear out their locker.

Progress Reports

We have already had one round of progress reports and a second progress report will be issued by the end of this term on Compass for you to check your child's progress. If you have any concerns about your child please don't hesitate to email your child's teacher/s.

We are facing unprecedented challenges and uncertainty but as a College community we will work with you in every way we can to provide them with a stable and focused pathway to continue their learning journey.

As further COVID-19 updates and details become available to us, we will be certain to circulate these and keep everyone connected with our school informed.

Thank you for your support and please stay safe,



Ms Michelle Roberts
Principal



Mr Andrew Moffat
Assistant Principal



Mrs Marina Walsh
Assistant Principal



Mrs Tracey Bastin
Assistant Principal



Mrs Jo Greenhalgh
Assistant Principal