

End of Term 3 Newsletter

Hello to all parents & guardians, students, staff and community members,

We have almost completed a full term of remote and flexible learning, along the way we have all faced a diversity of challenges that you have overcome, so congratulations and thank you.

Following the Premier's roadmap conference last week, flexible and remote learning will be continuing into term 4.

Today I will provide some clarity around next term for those returning to face to face learning and around the focus, targets and goals of the college over this time.

I will inform you of the safety measures for our students and staff that we will be enforcing while students are on site and the expectation and continued support we require from families to support this.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all families for their efforts over the term to support, nurture, guide and in some cases, educate your child at home.

I acknowledge the diverse challenges that many families have been presented with and thank them for trusting the college with many personal and challenging conversations that have been had.

Additionally, I would like to acknowledge that all parents and guardians have done their very best and made many difficult decisions in the best interest of your children's holistic wellbeing and education.

I reinforce that as a college we are committed in continuing to support the individual needs of all student and families holistically during this difficult time.

Words do not do justice to the pride I have for the dedication and effort of all staff at the college.

We continue to receive both positive and strongly informed constructive feedback from families and make appropriate adjustments to our practices to ensure we are providing the best possible education to every student.

Staff are no different than many students, parents and guardians, they have had enough, are exhausted and wish and pray that all students could return to face to face teaching.

They don't have a book that informs them how this all works or what is most effective, but continue to deeply self-reflect and seek consistent feedback daily to do it better.

Staff are spending many additional hours every day behind a screen engaging both groups and individual students and parents. Then, when the day is done they go into planning and research mode for the next day.

Staff have not been able to switch off both mentally and emotionally since last Christmas as each term break has required extensive planning and preparation.

I can tell you, this is not what 4 years of educational college taught any one of them. This profession is more than just a job, which they willingly committed to, for your children. What I am simply trying to say is that they are also doing their absolute best, just as you are. So, thank you to the families for your kind words of encouragement and gratitude, they are always well received.

Last Sunday the Premier presented his roadmap for the state with a continued focus of reducing the spread of Covid-19 which will result in lowering the levels of restrictions.

His message strongly reinforced that all decisions will be based around confirmed cases and key reduction target numbers being met prior to the further loosening of restrictions. I know the Premier's roadmap has been received by many people with polar opposite views. As difficult as it was to hear some of the Premier's comments, one thing echoed in my mind - to ensure that the Christmas holidays can be shared with our extended love ones further than 5km from our homes.

We must continue to have hope that things will get better and we must play our part in reducing the spread over the weeks ahead.

So, what does Term 4 look like at this stage?

Students

DET has placed the return to full time onsite learning for P-2 and VCE and VCAL students to after the GAT. The General Assessment Test is for all students enrolled in a one or more VCE or VET units 3/4 on Wednesday 7th October, this is Wednesday in week one of term 4.

Years P-2 and VCE/VCAL students return to full time onsite learning on Monday 12th October.

From Monday 5th October (start of term 4) all students will recommence their remote and flexible learning curriculum programs.

VCE students who are required to complete essential assessment during the first week of term will be provided access to the college. Students will be informed by their teacher or a member of the senior school leadership team if you are required on site.

From week 2, Monday the 12th October we will excitedly welcome back to the college our Prep to Year 2 students and our VCE and VCAL students to full time onsite learning.

Students in Years 3 to 10 will continue with their remote and flexible learning curriculum until the 26th October, where we will await further guidance from the Premier and Chief Health Officer.

Onsite supervision for children of permitted workers and vulnerable students will continue to be provided, consistent with existing guidelines.

College Goals for Students Returning to Face to Face Learning

As a college we have spent significant time planning and preparing for students to return to onsite learning. We have reflected and reviewed many of the challenges we faced when students returned after the first round of school closures.

Our primary goal for all students during term 4 will be to ensure we set a **positive climate for learning** for all students. This includes establishing routines, expectations, time management, uniform, organisation, peer friendship and student and staff relationships to name a few.

Students need to feel a sense of success and achievement on their return to face to face teaching to ensure we are setting up the precondition for ongoing success from the start of 2021. Please understand this will be done alongside a structured engaging curriculum aligned to your child's needs and standards.

Teachers will continue to be flexible, adaptable and reflective in their teaching and learning approaches to meet the needs of every student.

I respectfully ask all families that are facing additional challenges that may impact your child's return to face to face teaching to please contact your child's Year Level Leader, Classroom Teacher or Instructional Leader.

We don't want to place undue pressure on any child as a result of the Coronavirus impact to families, so please keep the communication channel open.

Safety

All students returning to face to face learning at the college will follow the guidelines and safety practices from the Chief Health Officer.

- All students above the age of 12 will be required to wear a mask
- All students will be temperature checked on arrival to school each day
- Social distancing will be adhered to as best as possible
- Teachers will social distance
- Hand sanitiser will be available for all students in each class
- Any student that feels unwell needs to stay at home and seek medical advice
- All students are required to bring their own drink bottles as drinking fountains are not to be used
- Pick up and drop off guidelines need to be strictly followed by parents while on school grounds to help mitigate further risks or spread of the Coronavirus- specific guidelines will be provided by Mrs Jamieson shortly
- No parent is to enter any buildings other than reception

Key Dates

The Monday before Cup Day will be a normal school day for all students.

The curriculum planning day planned for the first day of Term 4 has been changed to Wednesday 7th of October. This is in line with the GAT and impacts students less. Students will have work to continue with but there will be no WebEx meetings between students and teachers on this day.

Year 12 Families

As a college we are examining all possibilities around different levels of restrictions as to what the end of year celebrations and farewell will look like for our first cohort of Year 12 graduating students.

I am seeking regular guidance and updates from the Department with potential options, additionally our Year 12 cohort is providing guidance and direction in how they would like to celebrate this event.

Things that are being considered range from small family group celebrations, live streaming, outdoor venues and students only with parents streaming in.

I am committed to providing a celebration for all graduating students and recognising this amazing achievement. This is a significant stage of their lives.

As we confirm plans for this event an email will be sent by Mr. Baillie providing all the details dates and times.

All formal Year 12 classes end on October 28th.

Additional information aligned to each of the specific areas of the school will be sent from area principals over the coming weeks.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome Carolyn Bamberg the new Middle School Principal to our College.

And finally...

I would like to wish all students and parents a safe, relaxing and peaceful break, I ask you to continue to have faith and hope that this will get better for us all.

Thank you