

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for all your support during these past few weeks of remote and flexible learning.

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

In the **first stage**, students in the following classes will return to school from **Tuesday 26 May:**

* Prep/1
* Grade 2/3 – given that this is a composite class Grade 3 students are asked to attend school (those that cannot attend will be supported through a modified online program)
* Intensive English Language Centre
* Senior secondary (Year 11 and 12 VCAL and VCE) students

**NOTE: Year 10 students undertaking VCE studies, including VCE VET studies, are required to attend school** for those classes where practicable. (**If a student has a scheduled virtual learning class before or after their VCE class they will be supervised at school)** If this is not possible for your child/children, to attend the class our teachers will make sure the work 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.**

For those **students who cannot be supervised at home and vulnerable children**, the existing model of **on-site schooling will remain in place** during the two-week period from Tuesday 26 May to Tuesday 9 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.

All other students in these grades and year levels will continue learning from home until Tuesday 9 June.

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

Once a year level has returned, all students will be expected to attend school as normal. This means that 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.

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.

If you 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 to all schools that is available. I will provide more detail about our local school context as soon as possible, but it is important to note that changes will include:

* Parents/guardians of Prep to grade 3 students are to drop and pick up their child at the school gates and are not to enter the school grounds – parents are reminded about social distancing requirements
* Different entrances to the school and primary building will be allocated to the prep/1 class and the Grade 2/3 class – details to follow
* Restrictions on access to the school site for anyone other than immediate school staff and students

Given the relatively small number of students attending the school from 26 May until 9 June it is not necessary to undertake a staggered start/end to the day. This will be revisited prior to 9 June.

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.

Despite best efforts it is a possibility that your child may be infected whilst at school and I wish to identify some of the issues that your child will encounter upon return:

* Due to their size and number of students in them, social isolation will not be possible in the classroom
* Social isolation will be the responsibility of each child whilst on breaks
* Hand sanitizers will be provided throughout the college however students do not have access to hot water to wash their hands in – the school was built in the 1950’s and this wasn’t provided in any of the bathrooms
* The majority of drinking taps are of the” bubbler” variety and it is strongly recommended that students bring pre filled water bottles and stay well away from the taps
* Everyone has a responsibility to ensure the health and wellbeing of others by displaying thorough personal hygiene practices

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/department/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.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Mario Panaccio

PRINCIPAL