



## COVID-19 Communication 07

20 March 2020

Dear Families,

### **Supporting the National Strategy**

As you know Plenty Valley Christian College is working hard to comply with the wishes of the Australian and Victorian Government and keep the school open and at the same time ensure it is a safe place for students and teachers. It still appears that schools are not hot spots for the spread of the virus, with 80% of our cases being imported from overseas.

That is why I have placed **strict conditions** on students and staff who return from overseas or have had close contact with someone returning from overseas. I know that has inconvenienced a number of families and staff, but I'm sure you understand the seriousness of our situation and my need to hold very high standards of safety.

Even so, it appears that, on average, our student and staff attendance figures are higher than average for an independent school. Well done!

### **Support for Frontline Workers**

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our teachers and support staff. School staff generally did not sign up to be an essential service and yet that is what we are at the moment. Young people tend to have mild symptoms from the virus but the older you are, the stronger and more dangerous symptoms become. Our teachers, some with underlying health issues, are turning up to work for benefit of your children and the nation as a whole. They would value your prayers and ongoing support.

Many of our families are on the front line dealing with the virus threat. Our medical professionals, ambulance, police and other emergency services routinely place themselves at risk for the benefit of our community as a whole. This pandemic takes it to another level. They deserve our respect and support.

### **COVID-19 Questions**

If you have any questions relating to the College's response and conditions around COVID-19 then you can contact us using the email address [C19questions@pvcc.vic.edu.au](mailto:C19questions@pvcc.vic.edu.au)

### **Face to Face is Our Current Learning Mode**

Staff have been working hard to stay in top of absences, questions and changes needed as the virus responses continue. Teaching staff are developing planning for teaching at a distance in the event of school closure next term. At the same time, they still have a full normal teaching load as well as covering for colleagues who are not at school because they have symptoms (colds).

Realistically we are not able to operate in two teaching modes at the same time and so I have instructed staff to concentrate on the face to face delivery for students. I ask for your understanding that students who are not attending may have limited lesson plans if working from home.



### **Getting Ready for Learning at a Distance**

Teachers and ICT staff are working hard extending our capabilities so that we are able to continue to deliver a good quality, age appropriate education at a distance. There is still much learning for staff and students. Attached to this letter you will find some specific instructions from both Primary and Secondary sections of the College that will outline our plans. A key part of the plan is ongoing communication between student and teacher.

It will look overwhelming on first read but the students should all know the basic functioning. And we will work it out together.

We do need to say, however, that we know that some families are under enormous pressures at the moment, and we do not wish any of our families to see these instructions as another stress added to an already difficult time. Our frameworks are designed to bring as much normality in learning to the students as possible, relieving any anxiety they may have about keeping up with their education. But we recognise that you are not teachers, that life will be chaotic for a while, and that each family will do what is within their power and capability to do.

### **Student Free Day Friday 27 March (except students doing a unit 3/4 subject)**

It has become clear that in order for us to be ready for a potential all school shut down early Term 2, staff will need time to prepare. Therefore, I am calling a student free day for next Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> March for **everyone except Unit 3/4 VCE students** (mostly Year 12s). I apologise for the late notice, but as you know we are doing our best to provide for a possible closure in the near future. All unit 3/4 students will attend normal classes. If this causes any transport issues for any students (as there will be no school buses) please contact the College office.

Yours in Christ's Service

John Metcalfe  
Principal

For reliable government updates on Coronavirus (COVID-19) go to

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>