



7 April 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope that you and your family have found some relaxing together time during the last two weeks. It has been quite a different holiday than we all expected. At this time of uncertainty, I reflect on how the disciples must have felt as Jesus, their expected liberator of Israel, was arrested and taken away for trial and execution. It must have felt like their world and expectations were falling apart. When Jesus rose from the grave on Sunday it was clear that everything had changed. Not as they expected but infinitely better. I think our world will change after such an unstable and uncertain time, and I pray that the outcome may be unexpected and better as a result of these challenges.

Term 2 Plans

Following the Premier's announcement regarding education this morning, I write to update you on Plenty Valley Christian College's plans for Term 2. We will continue to align our College with the requirements and recommendations of our governments who are working hard to balance the needs of so many groups. Please pray wisdom and energy for them.

- All of Term 2 will be in remote learning mode.
- Tuesday 14 April is a **pupil free day** so scheduled lessons will begin on Wednesday 15 April.
- **Plenty Valley Christian College will be open during Term 2** for some students from Kinder to Yr 12 to physically attend. This will be guided by the government's principle of, "if you can learn (or work) at home you *must* learn from home." On-site learning will only be available for students whose parents *cannot* work from home or who have other significant reasons for being at school.
- Students who do attend school **will be working through remote delivery mode**. They will be supervised, but not necessarily have access to their normal teachers at school. This is in line with government school models and is the most practical provision for those at school as well as at home.
- **Year 12s will almost certainly finish this year with exams late in the year**. Please refer to VCAA for the specifics of Year 12 educational changes [here](#)

As long as all Victorian students have the same conditions, calculating an ATAR ranking should still be possible and should be, generally, the same as the old system. We will be continuing to work hard to ensure content is delivered in a way that equips Year 12s to tackle any changes.

- **VCAL students** will concentrate on theory work in Term 2 and 3 with practical and work placement in Term 4.
- Senior students will be able to attend school for short spurts like **practical lessons** or practical assessments. There will be more information to follow on this.
- Activities, excursions and events planned for Term 2 will be postponed or cancelled. Further information will be communicated with specifically affected groups. Any refunds for events are being considered on a case by case basis and families will be notified over the coming months.

Fee Assistance

If any family's financial situation has changed significantly because of the impact of Virus Response Measures please email us at accounts@pvcc.vic.edu.au and let us know. We do not want any of our families to be overburdened due to financial stress during this difficult time where so much is out of our control.



Parent Assistance

We are very aware of the extra burden of supervision you as parents will be wearing as you supervise children at home. We will supply the best remote learning possible and guide students through the curriculum, but of course we are unable to provide face-to-face motivation for students.

We also want to make sure that our students have as much wellbeing support as possible because they are people we care for. We will communicate more as we enter the term as to what our Welfare Team is working on regarding strategies to help students, parents and staff navigate this very different education system. More information will be sent regarding remote delivery of lessons for the various sub-schools.

Staff Commitment

I'm sure you can appreciate that our staff also have family and personal implications from the pandemic response conditions to navigate. This includes their own children as well as health issues. Despite this, we are committed to providing quality education to each and every Plenty Valley student. No doubt there will be hiccups as we try new things, but we will endeavour to be flexible and agile as we commit to making remote education work for everybody.

Health and Safety

Students or staff who are displaying any symptoms of the virus, who have been in contact with someone who has tested positive to COVID-19 or returned from overseas in the last two weeks, must not attend the College unless they have been tested and found negative to the virus, been quarantined for 2 weeks or the symptoms have abated. The College will continue to practice physical distancing and a heightened regime of disinfecting high contact areas.

We Can Do This

Although we are in uncharted waters and there will be some trial and error before we manage a smoother course, we are well placed with technology and talent to weather this storm. I can tell you that the PVCC staff have been superb in their desire and work ethic to find a way to make this work for your children. They have had to change their courses into something that will work for remote learning and they have to learn how to run a class remotely without the visual cues that assist us so much in face-to-face teaching. Yet they maintained a professional approach and a desire to ensure your children receive the best education possible.

Together with students - many of whom are very confident in digital life - and parents committed to getting the best out of a challenging time, we can make this work. Please be assured of our desire to support you and your family at this time.

Welcome to our New Business Manager

It seems like an unusual time to be doing this, but I would like to introduce and welcome Peter Bain, our new Business Manager. He started on Monday at a school that has no students and few staff physically on-site. Bernie Simmonds, our acting Business Manager will continue to support us during a changeover time, as he inducts Peter and passes on the baton. We are so grateful that Bernie was able to reprise his role as Business Manager for these last few months.

Have a blessed Easter

John Metcalfe
Principal