



COVID-19 – Communication 11

16 April 2020

Dear Families,

Welcome to the new world of Term 2.

Today I was able to play Downball with students at recess while on yard-duty looking after the 5 Junior Sub-School students who were attending today. There are challenges for the small number of students who need to be on site, but Downball was one small highlight.

How did we Start Off?

According to feedback I have received, our first two days of school have gone reasonably well for students, parents and teachers. Not perfectly, there have been some glitches which we are working on, but pretty well given that it is such a brand-new process for everyone at the PVCC community and beyond. There has been some very positive feedback from many families, which we are encouraged by. So, well done to parents undertaking a huge new role. Please let us know if you need assistance.

Where are Our Teachers?

The vast majority of Plenty Valley Christian College staff, including teachers, are not at school. Lessons are being delivered from their homes in keeping with the directive from the Victorian Government that, if they can work from home they should work from home. Many of them, like many of you, are juggling their work, teaching, with monitoring their own children as they undertake remote education.

Screen Fatigue

We held a virtual staff meeting yesterday afternoon. Teachers were happy but very tired. As many Australians have discovered, working from home through a screen is more tiring than being in a workplace where many levels of communication are taking place. It is the same for the students. Don't be too concerned if they are not working all of the time. We are building in time to have breaks, go outside, have a drink. We do not want screen fatigue to drain them of energy and engagement.

On Campus Education and Buses

If your family is made up of essential workers who cannot work from home, then you are able to send your children to school where they will be supervised by staff, but not their regular teachers. They will be undertaking remote education the same as the children at home. The College is practicing good hygiene and we have been reassured that for children who need to be there, schools are safe places.

Students cannot just turn up to school. If you believe you qualify for sending your child and you have not already done so, you need to email the College office (office@pvcc.vic.edu.au) to be added to the Onsite Supervision Required list so you can supply the required information.

Similarly, if your family is a regular school bus user and that is the only way they can get to and from the College, you should let the College Office know.



Frequently Asked Questions

Did you know there is a growing list of short videos answering FAQ about our new normal? The links below feature some of our staff answering your questions.

Remote Learning Prep and One <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WIZ6wdSFa0E>

Remote Learning Grade 2-6 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXd51InHO4Q>

Remote Learning Secondary Part 1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjJwdPkJHB8>

Remote Learning Secondary Part 2 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3hDB0AabE5Y>

Remote Learning VCE <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1LQyuVNv-pM>

Remote Learning VCAL <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B80LgRjQkFM>

Supporting Families

Last night the Board met for the second time to consider what further action the College could take to help our families.

The legal and first duty of a Board is to ensure the company for which they are responsible is run on a sound financial footing. However, our Board is also very aware that some of our families have been significantly affected by the measures taken to combat the virus.

The Board resolved to provide some practical help to families by implementing an across-the-board assistance to families by crediting 10% of the Term 2 school fees to their accounts. It is hoped that this will contribute to the costs of remote education for families and other unexpected expenses. There will be more information to follow regarding this in the near future.

Should families have experienced significant financial impact they should email the Business Office at accounts@pvcc.vic.edu.au so that our friendly Business Team can assist you.

The Board is aware that some of you would rather donate your 10% credit to other families who have been significantly impacted. There will be more information to follow regarding this in the near future.

John Metcalfe
Principal