



## COVID-19 Update 25

Dear Parents

### Surprise announcement

The last two days have been a whirlwind for our college leaders precipitated by the Year 12s back yesterday, the General Achievement Test (GAT) today and, oh yes, another unexpected announcement from the Premier.

Although unexpected, it is very welcomed and we will be glad to have our Year 7 students back next week along with kinder, all our primaries and students studying Year 11 and 12 subjects.

### We are sorry that Year 8 to 10 aren't back yet

I know that Years 8 to 10 will be very disappointed not to be included in the announcement. We spent a good deal of time trying to work out how to get them back too, but it looks like we are obligated to follow the scheduled staggered return announced by the Premier. PVCC will follow the instructions of the Victorian Chief Health Officer.

It is not that Years 8 to 10 aren't important in the government's eyes but, I think, the concern is the school peak hour traffic and parents "catching up" after school. The two weeks between next Monday start (12 October) and the return of all classes (26 October) is to monitor if there is any effect on the infection numbers. Year 8 to 10 students are more independent than younger students and can be more trusted to be at home by themselves.

### Return to face-to face schedule (currently)

Monday 12 October: Kinder to Year 7 and Year 11 and 12 back face-to-face.

Monday 26 October: All students back face-to-face pending permission from Victoria's Chief Health Officer.

### Start and finish times

Kinder: drop-off 8:45am, pickup 12:15pm or 3:15pm as per regular session times.

Prep: at the Early Years 'Kiss and Go' area – drop-off 8:30 – 8:45am, pickup 3:00pm

Other Primary: drop-off 8:30 – 8:45am, pickup 3:10pm

Secondary: drop-off 8:20 – 8:35am, pickup 3:20pm

Parents should not leave their cars except for one Kinder parent to sign their child in or out.

### Symptoms

If a student or any member of their household display symptoms of COVID-19 then the student should not attend the college. Parents will be required to come to the college and collect any students who develop symptoms at college and keep them at home until the results of a COVID test are negative.

### Random Temperature checks

As an added precaution, classes will be chosen for temperature checks during the day.

### Hay fever

This is hay fever season and many of the hay fever symptoms are like COVID-19. Children should be given hay fever medication as early as possible to control symptoms. The CHO has indicated that symptomatic children must not attend school.



We realise this will be an imposition for some families and so the college will accept a negative COVID test and a clearance from a medical practitioner indicating the symptoms are not caused by COVID-19.

### Must bring drink bottles

There are no longer any bubblers available at the college due to COVID safety concerns. All students should bring a drink bottle to refill from water taps.

### Masks

All secondary students must wear masks all day at school except when eating or drinking. Bandanas, shields, and other face coverings are no longer acceptable.

Students with up to date asthma plans submitted to the college may remove their masks if breathing is significantly impaired.

While I understand this sounds like a long list of rules and restrictions, we are doing our best to abide by the operating guidelines set out by the Victorian government. At the end of the day, the most important thing to remember is that if this is what we have to do in order to be together again, and have our students onsite for face-to-face learning, then this is what we do!

Again, I'd like to express my thanks to our teaching staff for their continued adaptability and efforts to provide an excellent delivery of curriculum to our students. Thank you also to you, parents, for the sacrifices you have made in order to keep your children engaged in their learning over these past long months. Let's continue to place our trust in our almighty God who upholds us with his righteous right hand.

John Metcalfe

Principal

7 October 2020