

Returning to school at Trinity College

19 May 2020

- Student Free Day Monday, 25 May
- Year 11, 12 and selected Year 10 students return on Tuesday, 26 May
- All other students return on Tuesday, 9 June
- If your child is ill or feeling unwell, they must not attend school
- Strict hygiene measures will be enforced

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 and the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) have advised that schools can begin a phased return to onsite schooling.

In the **first stage**, senior secondary students (selected Year 10 students and all Year 11 and 12 students) studying a VCE and VCAL unit will return to school from **Tuesday, 26 May**.

- All other students in those year levels will continue learning from home until Tuesday, 9 June.
- For those students who cannot be supervised at home and for vulnerable children, the existing model of onsite schooling will remain in place during the two-week period from Tuesday, 26 May to Monday, 8 June. The current process that we are using to enable parents and carers to indicate the days or part-days for which onsite schooling is required will continue for this two-week period.
- To support all school staff to prepare for this transition, **Monday, 25 May will be a student-free day**.

In the **second stage** of our return to onsite schooling, all other year levels will return to school on **Tuesday, 9 June**. The same approach is being taken by all Catholic and government schools in Victoria.

- 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 onsite 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.
- If your child is ill or is feeling unwell, they must not attend school. They must remain

home and seek medical advice.

We have all learnt a great deal in the eight weeks since face-to-face teaching last took place in the College on 23rd March. I am grateful to the staff for their quite extraordinary commitment to maintaining continuity of learning for our students. I know that you are appreciative and we thank those who have sent through messages of thanks and support to staff.

Our next challenge is to transition back to face to face teaching and I am confident that the cooperation, flexibility and hard work amongst staff, students and families that helped us adapt so quickly and effectively to remote learning will make this next phase successful.

However, life at school will be different to the pre-Covid 19 era. Our day to day operations will be changed to ensure we keep staff and students safe. 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. Please refer to the information sheet at the end of this letter and discuss these important points with your child.

Professional advice is that students are very safe at school. Adults are at greater risk of transmission, infection and negative health outcomes than young people. We will be emphasising effective hygiene practices amongst all students and staff with particular emphasis on helping staff remain as physically distanced as possible.

This document is designed to provide information you and your children will need about the return to school. Schools are complex and dynamic places and no doubt there will be unforeseen challenges and we will need to adjust and use common sense as we go along.

To support the health and wellbeing of all students and staff, our school will continue an enhanced cleaning routine and will encourage frequent handwashing.

We understand that some families and students 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.

More information about the return to school and coronavirus (COVID-19) can be found on the CECV website, which will continue to be updated: www.cecv.catholic.edu.au/Coronavirus-information-for-parents.

Thank you for your continued support and patience during this time. We look forward to welcoming our students back to the classroom.

Yours sincerely

Cheryl Pefanis
Deputy Principal

RETURN TO SCHOOL INFORMATION

Illness

- Students need not be kept home if they are asymptomatic and have been tested,

BUT if they have symptoms and have been tested they must not be at school until a negative result is received. In the event of a positive test result, please inform the College immediately.

- The College has clear processes in place to isolate any suspected cases of COVID-19 and to report cases to the relevant authorities.

Household illness / compromised immunity

- Some students may live in a household where they or others are considered at a heightened risk due to Chronic Illness and/or Compromised Immune Systems. It may not be safe for such students to return to face to face teaching at this time. If you are concerned that your child may be in this situation please access and check this link: [Health Advice](#).
- If you believe that your child is unable to recommence face to face learning, please advise the College Reception.

Travel

- Bus services will run as normal. Physical distancing will be difficult during bus travel. Students are asked to maintain space as much as possible. Students are encouraged to carry hand sanitiser and use the sanitiser before and after bus travel.
- Parents dropping off and picking up students are asked to remain in cars and, where possible, only transport members of their own household.

Cleaning and hygiene

- High contact areas at school, including door handles, light switches and washrooms, will be cleaned regularly throughout the day.
- Sanitising stations have been installed at the entrance to each building and every person entering and leaving a teaching area is required to sanitise their hands. A few minutes prior to the end of each lesson students are to wipe down their workspace, including desk and chair. Disinfectant and paper towelling will be provided. Soap is available in all washrooms.
- Please remind your children to continue practising good hygiene requirements, including coughing hygiene and handwashing hygiene. They must be reminded to avoid any physical contact with each other and are discouraged from sharing possessions with each other.

Classrooms

- Classrooms will be set up to enable students to be distanced from each other as far as is practicable. Given our restricted teaching space, it is not possible to ensure a 1.5 m distance between students in classrooms.
- Teachers will attempt to avoid close contact with students.
- Where possible, depending on temperature and weather conditions, classroom doors will remain open. As much ventilation as possible will be maintained in all

areas.

Timetable

During the first two weeks with only Year 11 and 12 classes on-site, our timetable will continue as close to normal as possible. However, there will be no Homeroom period and Lesson 1 will commence at 9am. The day will conclude at 3:20 as usual. No year level meetings, College assemblies, camps or off site excursions may take place until further notice.

Year 10 VCE students

The Stage 1 return will include Year 10 students undertaking VCE studies, including VCE VET studies. These Year 10 students should attend school for those VCE classes where practicable.

- If this is not possible for your child, our teachers will make sure the work provided to students attending at school is also provided to your child via your child's Class Notebook.
- Year 10 students unable to travel home at the end of their scheduled VCE/VET classes will be supervised at school for the remainder of the day.
- These students will have a choice as to whether to attend school for only the VCE lesson or whether to remain on the school site in a supervised classroom where they can continue with their other lessons in a remote setting.
- Further details about these arrangements will be forwarded to Year 10 parents.
- Please note that, at Trinity College, the following VCE lessons for Year 10 students will still be conducted remotely: Year 10 VCE Unit 1 Foundation Maths and VCE Unit 1 Religious Education.

Canteen

- The canteen will be available to students from 26th May. Students must place their food orders at the canteen by 9:30 each morning. No lunch orders, such as hot food or salad rolls, will be available outside of the lunch order system. Other items will be on sale at the canteen during breaks.
- Given the tight confines of the room, the Common room will be closed to Year 12 students.
- Students may not sit in the canteen area given that the canteen will already have a number of students in queues. It is preferable for students to be outside in fresh air.
- Students may not share food: this is especially applicable in the Cooking classes.

Drinking Fountains

Students may not drink from the taps at the water drinking fountains and are expected to bring a water bottle to school. They may fill their water bottles at the drinking fountains.

Lockers

Students will have access to their lockers but are encouraged to minimise visits by taking materials for successive classes with them or leaving materials on the desk if they are returning the same classroom.

Uniform

Students are expected to be in full and correct school uniform on their return to school.

Temperature measuring

The government advisory panel suggests that there is little benefit in taking the temperature of individuals as they come on site. We will follow this advice and will not be temperature checking staff or students.

COVID Safe App and Student phones

- All students are strongly encouraged to download the COVID Safe App on their mobile phone if they have one. Students should keep the app open and may keep their phones with them throughout the day. However, they are not to check their phones during the day.
- Normal school rules apply to students regarding phone use: no phone is to be sighted between the start and the end of the school day. The consequence of phone use during the school day is 6 demerit points resulting in an afterschool detention.
- In the event of a positive test in our school, having this app open will help keep us all safe by facilitating contact tracing.