



Tuesday 1 June 2021

Dear parents and carers,

No doubt you will be aware there have not been any new announcements made regarding the potential continuation of the current lockdown beyond Thursday 3 May. There were 9 new locally acquired cases recorded yesterday, 6 of which were reported during yesterday's press conference. There are a range of scenarios the college is planning for, which are outlined below.

Scenario 1

Students return to on-site learning as originally planned on Friday 4 June.

This would result in minimal disruption for most year levels. I would expect the VCAA would provide advice about extending the deadline for the submission of Unit 3 work. Year 10 and 11 exams would commence on Friday (instead of Thursday). The GAT would still run as planned on Wednesday June 9.

Scenario 2

The arrangements for the General Achievement Test (GAT) change but students still return to on-site learning on Friday 4 June.

This would result in minimal disruption for most year levels. All students studying a Unit 3-4 subject who were due to sit the GAT on Wednesday 9 June would do so at a later date. I would expect the VCAA would provide advice about extending the deadline for the submission of Unit 3 work. Year 10 and 11 exams would commence on Friday (instead of Thursday).

Scenario 3

The lockdown and remote learning is extended beyond Thursday.

There would be a range of aspects to work through for all students, in particular those in Year 11 and 12. All students studying a Unit 3-4 subject who were due to sit the GAT on Wednesday 9 June would do so at a later date. I would expect the VCAA would provide advice about extending the deadline for the submission of Unit 3 work. Year 10 and 11 exams would be either rescheduled or cancelled, depending on the length of the extension to the lockdown. We would also consider when we commence the Semester 2 timetable and the best place for the report writing day if the final submission of work deadline changes.

There are of course possible variations of the 3 scenarios listed above so we will need to wait on further advice before enacting anything. I appreciate your patience as we all wait for further advice. I'll keep you updated as information comes to hand.

Health and Wellbeing advice for families

It can be challenging to process and manage changes to routines and the uncertainty that comes with COVID-19 and related restrictions – including moving to remote learning. To support our school community during this time, resources and support are available for parents, carers and families. These resources will help to support the mental health and wellbeing of everyone during this time.

I encourage everyone in our community to access these resources and take care of themselves during this time.

Services and support for students and their families

[A Quick Guide to Student Mental Health and Wellbeing](#) resources is available for students, parents and carers looking to access expert guidance and resources to support wellbeing.

Supporting the mental health and wellbeing of our students remains our priority this year, especially during the continued COVID-19 pandemic and while students are learning from home during the current circuit breaker restrictions.

For students, the guide includes resources to support their own mental health and wellbeing.

- Advice and resources for students about ways to adapt their learning during coronavirus, to look after themselves and where to get help.
- Wellbeing activities featuring AFL and AFLW players with tips on managing stress, staying active and gratitude.
- Kick it with Victory physical activities with Melbourne Victory Football Club.
- Smiling Mind mindfulness activities for senior secondary school students, including short videos, online tip sheets and meditations

The guide also includes resources and supports for parents and carers to help them build their child's physical and mental health and wellbeing. This includes:

- resources to support children's physical, mental health and wellbeing
- wellbeing activities and conversation starters
- Raising Learners podcast series
- how to talk to your child about coronavirus (COVID-19).

Wellbeing guidance for parents and carers is also available on the Department's website, or through the confidential parent support hotline, Parentline, available 8am to midnight, seven days a week. Phone: 132289.

Please let us know if your child requires any extra support during remote learning. A member of our wellbeing team will be on-site each day to provide remote support for students who need it.

I also encourage you to contact teachers via email or XUNO messaging. If you can't make contact with a teacher, or if you're not sure who you should speak to regarding an inquiry, then please contact Reception via telephone (5479 1111) or email (castlemaine.sc@education.vic.gov.au).

My next update to parents and carers will be on **Wednesday 2 June**.

Stay home, stay safe and I look forward to welcoming all students back on-site.

Regards,



Simon Wood
Acting Principal – Castlemaine Secondary College