



Arrangements for Return to VCE, VET and VCAL Face-to-Face Learning

21 May 2020

Dear VCE and VCAL Students and Families,

As you are aware, this period of remote learning will soon draw to a close, with Years 11 and 12 students returning to school from Tuesday 26 May, along with Year 10 students for any VCE or VET classes they are studying (please see the end of this letter for more information about Year 10s). All remaining students will then return to school from Tuesday 9 June. For further details about this return-to-school announcement, please refer to the letter I emailed to each family on May 12. This earlier letter is also published on the CSC website under the "Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Updates" tab.

Support Available to Students and Families

Returning to school will elicit mixed emotions for CSC students and their families. I know that many of our students will be relieved to return to school and interact with their friends and teachers again. However, it is also true that for some students and their families the next few weeks will herald another challenging transition and create strong feelings of anxiety. If this is the case, please let us know. Support is available through our Mentor Teachers or through our Wellbeing Team. Again, I remind all families about the Wellbeing Team webpage established last term. This webpage, available through the following link or via the "School Life" menu on the CSC website, contains valuable student wellbeing advice and clear processes for getting in touch with one of our Wellbeing Team workers:

<https://sites.google.com/education.vic.gov.au/cscwellbeing/home?authuser=2>

We are aware that some families will be experiencing financial hardship at the moment. Please contact us if you need support with any financial aspects of your child's education.

Health and Hygiene Considerations

I wish to reassure all CSC families that the Department of Education and Training has produced a comprehensive "Return to School Operations Guide" based on clear medical advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer. We will be strictly adhering to the advice in the DET Operations Guide and we have been preparing thoroughly this week to ensure that current DET hygiene standards are met at CSC. This includes:

- Installation of 30 automatic hand sanitiser units throughout both campuses. Please note, students will be required to wash or sanitise their hands upon arrival at school and immediately before and after specific practical learning activities.
- Negotiating a significantly increased cleaning schedule with our cleaning contractors.
- Revision of sick-bay and first aid protocols.
- Developing hygiene protocols for when students need to use shared equipment.
- Displaying even more posters around the school with key hygiene messages.



- Re-arranging the layout of some areas of the school to allow for more social distancing where it's practical to do so.

Until further notice, students will be required to bring their own water bottles to school instead of using the shared bubble taps.

One of the most important messages I will continually be re-iterating to all staff, students and any other visitors to the school is that we must not come to school if we are sick. It is essential that anyone who is unwell stays away from school. Any students who become unwell at school will need to be taken home as soon as possible.

A further message we will be communicating to all students upon their return is that any form of spitting, deliberately coughing at others or demonstrating any other similar forms of blatant and deliberate disregard for acceptable hygiene practices will not be tolerated. Such acts will be treated as serious breaches of our school disciplinary standards.

Re-Establishment of School Routines Next Week

The Department of Education and Training has stipulated that all teaching and learning for Years 11 and 12 classes must return to face-to-face delivery from Tuesday 26 May. Unfortunately, we will not be able to continue remote learning for Years 11 and 12 students who choose to stay at home.

If students are unwell but capable of working from home, they are able to provide us with a medical certificate, and we will provide work for them to complete at home. However, this will not take the same form as the full remote learning we have been able to provide over the past few months.

Please note the following arrangements and expectations from May 26:

- All VCE, VET and VCAL classes will resume at school as per our normal timetable. Lesson times will stay the same as they have been throughout the term so far. These timings are just a few minutes different from our normal timetable. Mentor Group times will be the same on each day including Wednesday (i.e. 9 – 9:15am Mentor Group meetings every day, and no extended Mentor Group sessions on Wednesdays until all students return after June 9).
- School busses will run as per normal. The Department of Transport, DHHS and Department of Education and Training are working with bus contractors throughout the state to ensure that increased hygiene precautions are implemented on all school busses.
- Start and finish times for the school day will remain unchanged.
- The CSC canteen will be in operation from May 26, although menus might be reduced for the first few days.
- Students will be required to wear school uniform from May 26. As always, we are here to support families who need support in purchasing new items of school uniforms. The Beleza Uniform shop has now returned to its normal operating hours – please see the CSC website for details. Again we are aware that some families will be experiencing financial hardship at the moment. Please contact us if you need support with purchasing uniform or any other financial aspect of your child's education.



What will be different?

Despite the return to normal school routines, a few things will be different. These changes include:

- There will be no camps, excursions, information evenings or school assemblies until the DET gives approval for these to resume.
- We are urging adults only come on site if it is essential to do so (based on DET advice, this does not apply to 18 year old students). Of course, we are still here to support you and answer any queries you might have, but please consider if we can address these matters via email or the telephone before coming to Reception.
- VCE, VET and VCAL course requirements have changed for Semester Two to take into account the disruption to learning over the past few months. All of our teachers now have access to the revised course information and they are starting to discuss this with our students. VCE exams have been pushed back a few weeks and will now occur from November 9 to December 2.

Year 10 Students Studying Year 11 Subjects

Year 10 students studying Year 11 subjects are required to attend school for their Year 11 classes over the next two weeks, while their Year 10 classes will be delivered remotely until June 5. During this two week period, our preference is for Year 10 students only to be campus for their Year 11 classes; however, we understand some students will need to catch busses to school and stay at school all day.

If your Year 10 student will need to stay on campus at any time over the next two weeks (i.e. outside of their timetabled Year 11 class), could you please email us via castlemaine.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au to let us know which days and times they will be remaining on site. We will be making two of our large learning spaces available for these Year 10 students to undertake their Remote Learning under the supervision of a teacher. It will be essential, however, that we know which Year 10 students are staying onsite so please let us know via email as soon as possible.

The information above relating to school busses, school uniform and canteen operations is also relevant to Year 10 students.

I am looking forward to seeing our senior students back next week. If you have any queries or concerns relating to this return to school, please contact us to let us know.

Yours sincerely

Paul Frye - Principal