



Wednesday 2 June

Dear parents and carers,

I am pleased to be able to announce that Castlemaine Secondary College will return to face to face learning for all students on Friday 4 June, along with all students in regional Victoria.

There are some important guidelines of which all members of the college community need to be aware. This update will provide an overview of these guidelines and some key changes to our college calendar. Further information about what the college is doing to ensure we are maintaining a COVIDsafe environment will be provided in tomorrow's update.

## **Return to on-site learning requirements**

### *Face masks*

**It is important that students bring their own mask to the college each day.**

School staff and secondary school students aged 12 or older must wear a face mask indoors at school, unless an exception applies. Face masks are required to be worn outdoors at school where physical distancing of 1.5m cannot be maintained.

Children under 12 years of age are not required to wear face masks when at school.

Families should also be aware that, for the purposes of communicating, teachers and education support staff are not required to wear face masks while teaching, but those who wish to do so, can.

**Face masks are mandatory for all school staff and school students aged 12 or older when travelling to and from school.**

### *Density quotients*

The density quotient of 1 person per 4 square metre applies in spaces used only by staff and to publicly accessible areas. It does not apply in classrooms.

### *School camps*

Students in regional schools can participate in a school camp if the camping venue is limited to use by a single school only and located in regional Victoria.

## **End of Semester Arrangements**

With the recent announcement of the postponement of the General Achievement Test (GAT), Castlemaine Secondary College is putting in place some key changes to our college calendar. These will be reflected in the Xuno calendar shortly. I have included below a summary of the changes as well as an overview of the GAT and its purpose.

### **Changes**

- The 2021 General Achievement Test (GAT) scheduled for next Wednesday, 9 June 2021 will be rescheduled to a date to be determined. The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) is currently determining the most appropriate date for the rescheduled 2021 GAT, and we will keep you updated.
- The final date of submission of work for Year 10, 11 and 12 was initially on Thursday 3 June. This will be postponed by one week to **Thursday 10 June**.

- Our Year 10 and 11 exams were originally scheduled to commence on Thursday 3 June and run for five days. These exams will now commence on **Monday 7 June** and will run for 4 days.
- Our student free day to allow staff to finalise reports will remain on **Friday 11 June**.
- The commencement for Semester 2 classes will remain on **Tuesday 15 June**. There will be some Year 12 classes which will continue with Unit 3 work after the commencement of Semester 2 classes, particularly folio based subjects.

### What is the General Achievement Test?

All students enrolled in one or more VCE or scored VCE VET Unit 3 and 4 sequences must sit the GAT, which is a test of general knowledge and skills in these broad areas:

- written communication
- mathematics, science and technology
- humanities, the arts and social sciences.

No special study is required but study of subjects like English, Mathematics, Science and History prepares students for the GAT by building their general knowledge and skills in writing, numeracy and reasoning.

It is important to understand that, while GAT results do not count directly towards a student's VCE results, they are used in a number of ways. Gat results:

- help check that school-based and external assessments have been accurately assessed
- contribute to statistical moderation of school-based assessment results
- help calculate Derived Examination Scores
- determine scores in school-based assessment, external assessment and if a derived examination score is required due to illness, accident and trauma.

There is a close correlation between receiving good GAT results and academic achievement.

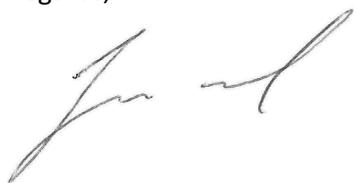
Further general information about the GAT can be found here: [VCAA GAT Information](#).

I encourage you to contact teachers via email or XUNO messaging if you need to during our final day of remote learning tomorrow. 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](mailto:castlemaine.sc@education.vic.gov.au)).

My next update to parents and carers will be on **Thursday 3 June**.

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

Regards,



Simon Wood  
Acting Principal – Castlemaine Secondary College