



Monday 7 June

Dear parents and carers,

I trust you had a good weekend and your child is looking forward to the last week of Semester 1 classes. This week is a shorter week for all students to allow for a report writing day on Friday 11 June.

I would like to thank all students for the way they returned to on-site learning on Friday. The vast majority of students had a mask and followed the COVIDSafe guidelines we have displayed around the college. Until further notice, all staff and students aged 12 or older must wear a face mask indoors at school, unless an exception applies. For further details regarding the return to on-site learning requirements please see my update from Thursday 3 June.

Year 10 and 11 Exams

Exams for our Year 10 and 11 students started today. By all reports, students conducted themselves very well under some difficult circumstances, in particular having to wear a mask for the duration of each exam. These exams will continue for all Year 10 and 11 students up to an including Thursday 10 June. When students do not have exams they can utilise the library for private study.

Upcoming Events

Our Year 9 students will be undertaking the My Career Insights Surveys and related work over the next few weeks in the lead up to the end of Term 2. Thanks to Ms Young for being able to rearrange this important event, which was originally scheduled to commence during the lockdown last week.

We also have a couple of camps coming up before the end of Term 2. These will be able to take place where COVID restrictions permit.

Tips for Parents and Carers

Headspace has produced a short clip which provide tips parents and carers during Lockdown. While this period has fortunately ended for us, there are still some useful messages. I encourage you to check out this clip here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fw3LzWe-93U>

COVID Update

I have included a message from Victoria's Chief Health Officer, thanking all communities for the response to the most recent lockdown.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank students, staff, teachers, parents, and carers for your cooperation during this period of increased COVID-19 restrictions in Victoria. As all students in regional Victoria and year 11 and 12 students in metropolitan Melbourne return to on site learning, students and staff should feel reassured that, with the additional health and safety controls currently in place, it is safe for them to return and enjoy the important benefits of doing so.

Throughout the pandemic, Victorian schools have rapidly and successfully adapted to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, using COVIDSafe principles by reinforcing good behaviours, creating safe environments, modifying activities, and responding quickly to COVID-19 risk.

I am confident that with COVIDSafe plans in place, alongside our ability to quickly identify and respond to cases, eligible students and staff can return safely to school premises.

It is crucial, however, for everyone to remain vigilant by always staying home when unwell, wearing a face mask, performing regular hand hygiene, and maintaining physical distancing from others when practical.

The school community continues to have an important role to promote COVID-19 testing when a student or staff member has any symptoms, no matter how mild, and ensuring they remain home until they are well.

Getting tested and staying home until results are known is critical to limiting community transmission.

School communities should continue to check Victorian locations where there is a risk of exposure to COVID-19 and take the required public health actions. The list of current exposure sites can be found on [case alerts - public exposure sites](#).

We encourage all members of the school community to get vaccinated if eligible. Further information on vaccinations and eligibility can be found on [COVID-19 vaccines](#).

Adj. Clinical Prof. Brett Sutton
Victorian Chief Health Officer

Due to the Queen's Birthday Public Holiday next Monday, my next update to parents and carers will be on **Tuesday 14 June** unless there is something urgent I need to communicate.

Take care of yourself and each other.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Wood', written in a cursive style.

Simon Wood
Acting Principal – Castlemaine Secondary College