



Thursday 22 July

Dear parents and carers,

I trust you and your family are going well in this extended lockdown. All previously reported restrictions remain in place from an educational perspective and this will continue until midnight on Tuesday 27 July. I remain hopeful we will be able to return to on-site learning after that, however I expect there will be significant restrictions in place which will guide our return when this does occur. This will include a return to the mandatory wearing of masks and physical distancing. I will provide further details as they come to hand but in the meantime I encourage you to prepare for this by obtaining some disposable or reusable masks. The college has a very small supply of single use masks.

Reporting absences

Throughout this period of remote and flexible learning, ongoing engagement in classes is vital for the learning continuity of all students. However, we also acknowledge sometimes students will be absent for a range of reasons. If you are aware your child will be absent please report this to the college via the absence line: 5479 1150.

SRC update

Our Student Representative Council have been doing some fantastic work throughout the year, guided by a range of staff and community leaders. Earlier in Term 2 they developed 3 Priority areas they are focusing on for the remainder of 2021 during their Leadership Day in the council chambers.

The team used:

- student survey data from both CSC and Mt Alexander Shire (youth services),
- SRC suggestion box and
- qualitative data from conversations,

They worked with College Council President, Beth Mellick, Primary Care Partnerships, Emma Shannon, Head of Youth Services for the Shire Shannon Lacey and CSC Leading Teacher Judith McLean.

The priority areas identified by the group are:

- Sex Education - making it relevant and meeting point-of-need for students of CSC. This work also directly relates to Respectful Relations (EMP), DET requirement for schools to focus on 'Consent', and Maisie Mellick-Cooper's leadership project with Shanee Peters.
- Battle of the Bins - improving waste management at CSC to have a stronger focus on recycling.
- CSC makes a stand against Discrimination - this includes racism and sexism especially with a focus on gender diversity. CSC doesn't tolerate any discrimination and we all have a responsibility to call it out.

Even though we are currently in lockdown, the SRC took part in the first training session for 'Teach the Teacher' program run by VicSRC on Wednesday. Our SRC won a \$4000 grant from VicSRC to undertake this training. The SRC are learning skills to lead a staff meeting to better inform teachers on one of these key priorities and how to support students.

We are incredibly proud of the work this group continues to do and look forward to the positive changes enacted at the college as a result.

Andrew Fuller Presentation

There is an upcoming opportunity for parents and carers to attend a presentation with clinical psychologist, family therapist and author Andrew Fuller.

COVID restrictions permitting, the session will take place on Monday 9 August 2021 from 6pm-9pm at the Campbells Creek Community Centre (45 Elizabeth St, Campbells Creek).

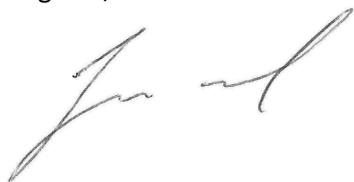
For further information please see the attached flyer.

As always, I also encourage you to maintain 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 **Monday 26 July** unless there is something urgent I need to communicate to you all prior to this.

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

Regards,

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

Simon Wood
Acting Principal – Castlemaine Secondary College