



Tuesday 10 August

Dear parents and carers,

Today I have received additional information regarding the postponement of the General Achievement Test (GAT), which was scheduled to take place at 10am on Thursday 12 August for all students. The VCAA communicated to all secondary schools this morning:

Following the most up-to-date advice from the Department of Health on current COVID-19 restrictions, the 2021 General Achievement Test (GAT) will be rescheduled to a date to be determined.

The rescheduled date for the GAT will be announced as soon as possible.

While this provides additional uncertainty for our students who are undertaking a Unit 3-4 subject, I believe the decision has been made due to the challenges metropolitan Melbourne would encounter bringing senior students on-site to complete this important test.

We had planned to run our VTAC Information Session for Year 12 students in the afternoon following the GAT but this will now need to be changed, as all students previously sitting the GAT will now attend regular classes on Thursday. Information about when this will run will be sent out as soon as possible.

In relation to the Morrisby profile for Year 9 students, we will be scheduling another round of Career Insights sessions in the last week of Term 3. While some Year 9 students will be on camp, this is a great opportunity for those students who are not to engage in these important sessions.

Additionally, I also have a small amount of long service leave which has been planned since the start of this year coming up this week and next. I will be on leave from Thursday 12 August and return on Monday 23 August.

Justin Hird will be Acting Principal in my place and Judith McLean will be Acting Assistant Principal. Polly Cotton will take on the role of Acting Precinct Leader (Performers) for Judith during this time. I thank all staff who have been willing to accept a greater level of responsibility in my absence.

Return to on-site learning – Further details

Camps and Excursions

School camps and overnight stays for regional Victorian schools can take place within regional Victoria. Bookings will be limited to single schools. Multiple schools can attend camps providing school groups remain separated and do not share common facilities at the same time.

Outdoor education including excursions and overnight stays within regional Victoria, for the purpose of outdoor education are permitted. Programs will only operate for staff and students from single schools.

Excursions are permitted within regional Victoria and will take place with students from single schools only.

Camps and excursions for metropolitan Melbourne schools cannot take place at this time.

Structured workplace learning (SWL) and work experience

SWL and work experience placements can recommence in regional Victoria.

A reminder as well about the continued expectation around face masks. **It is important that students bring their own mask to the college each day.** *For the purpose of this time period, face masks are considered part of CSC uniform. As such, students who do not have a face mask will be managed in line with our uniform policy.*

It is important that any student who experiences COVID-19 symptoms stays at home until these symptoms abate.

The symptoms to watch out for are:

- fever
- chills or sweats
- cough
- sore throat
- shortness of breath
- runny nose
- loss or change in sense of smell or taste

Please contact the college via the absence line (5479 1150), if your child is unwell, to notify us of their absence. If the absence is going to be longer than 3 days, please make contact with the appropriate Precinct Manager to discuss the provision of work.

Now that we are back to on-site learning, there will be a return to weekly updates. The next parent update will be sent by Justin Hird on Monday 16 August.

Regards,

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

Simon Wood
Acting Principal – Castlemaine Secondary College