



Monday 30 August

Dear parents and carers,

I hope the week has started well for you and your family. Today's update will be primarily focussed on information for families of students undertaking a Unit 3-4 subject.

On-site attendance for preparation and participation in Permitted Essential Assessments

The Acting Chief Health Officer (CHO) has approved the conduct of a restricted list of Permitted Essential Assessments on site from Monday, 30 August 2021.

Permitted Essential Assessment for attendance onsite from Monday, 30 August 2021 in Performing Arts studies at Unit 3/4 level only.

Attendance onsite is restricted strictly to those participating in essential assessments for these studies where they cannot be conducted remotely.

Should this be required of your child there will be strict protocols in place which must be followed. This will include getting a COVID test prior to coming on-site. You will be advised of the specific nature of these requirements as needed.

The VCAA plan to progressively add studies with practical assessment requirements that can only be completed onsite as soon as possible. This will be determined on the advice of the Chief Health Officer.

Consideration of Educational Disadvantage (CED)

Any student undertaking a Unit 3-4 sequence this year, can submit a CED statement by **Sunday 12 September**. Students have been sent a link directly to enable them to do this.

The information provided on this statement is confidential and will be used by teachers to make sure that final VCE results are valid and fair for all students. Evidence is not required at this stage but we may ask for more information if we were unaware of circumstances which are reported.

CED considers how students have been affected by circumstances, including:

- school closures
- direct impacts on the health of a student
- students dealing with substantial extra family responsibilities
- ongoing issues with remote learning (including intermittent access and suitability)
- mental health challenges.

It restores students' results to where they would have been without these disruptions that have occurred throughout the year. Students' final scores on examinations will be equal to or higher than their achieved scores.

General Achievement Test (GAT)

As you will no doubt be aware, the GAT has been rescheduled several times this year already. As of the last communication from the VCAA, the GAT is scheduled to take place on Thursday 9 September. I expect there will be further information provided by the VCAA in the coming days and I will provide it as soon as I can.

I encourage you to 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).

Stay home, stay safe and we look forward to welcoming all students back on-site as soon as it is safe to do so.

My next update to parents and carers will be on Tuesday 31 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