



Sunday 3 October

Dear parents and carers,

Further to my previous update, the information in this update is provided to ensure all families are aware of how the staggered return to on-site learning will be managed at Castlemaine Secondary College.

Remote and Flexible Learning Arrangements

The arrangements which were in place for Term 3 will continue to be in place for Term 4 for all students who are learning remotely. As students gradually return to on-site learning, the management of their learning program will be the responsibility of their classroom teacher.

Student Check-ins

From **Monday morning** all mentors will run a Google Meet for their mentor group each morning from 9.00-9.15am.

Bell Times

Bell times are as follows:

9.00 – 9.15: Mentor 'Check in'

9:15 – 10:00: Period 1

10:00 – 10:45: Period 2

10:45-11:15 –Morning Break

11:15 – 12:00: Period 3

12:00 – 12:45: Period 4

12:45-1:45 – Lunch Break

1:45 – 2:30: Period 5

2:30 – 3:15: Period 6

On-site supervision

Access to on-site supervision will be available for eligible students in the following categories

Children where both parents and/or carers are authorised workers who cannot work from home, work for an essential provider and where no other supervision arrangements can be made:

- Where there are two parents/carers, both must be authorised workers, working outside the home in order for their children to be eligible for on-site provision
- For single parents/ carers, the authorised worker must be working outside the home in order for their children to be eligible for on-site provision.

Children experiencing vulnerability, including:

- children in out-of-home care
- children deemed vulnerable by a government agency, funded family or family violence service, and is assessed as requiring education and care outside the family home
- children identified by a school as vulnerable, including via referral from a government agency, or funded family or family violence service, homeless or youth justice service or mental health or other health service.
- Where a parent/carer indicates that a student with a disability is vulnerable because they cannot learn from home, and/or informs the school the student is vulnerable due to family stress, the school must provide on-site supervision for that student. This may apply to students enrolled in specialist schools and students with a disability enrolled in mainstream schools.

Combined classes (EG Y9 and 10 students in the same class)

Face-to-face learning will be delivered for those students who are on-site when the class is run. For students who are learning from home on that day, teachers will either opt to run the class for them remotely through a blended delivery model, or set meaningful work for students to complete from home which is similar to the work being done on-site. Unfortunately, it is not possible to invite students on-site to complete a particular subject when they are supposed to be working remotely, except for Year 11 students completing a Year 12 subject on Monday 4 October. Where relevant, teachers will advise their students of the arrangements which will be in place for their classes.

Front Office Opening Hours

Our school Reception will operate under normal opening hours

On-site Learning Arrangements

Students who are on-site must follow all directions to help keep everyone safe.

Ventilation

We will increase fresh air flow into indoor spaces (including shared spaces, staff areas and thoroughfares) whenever possible. We will also maximise the use of outdoor learning areas or environments wherever possible.

Natural ventilation

All windows, doors and vents will be open as much as possible.

These openings will be clear of any obstruction to air flow.

Door jambs will be used to keep doors open.

Maintain physical distancing

A variety of strategies to support physical distancing among all students will be pursued, where possible.

Students should practise physical distancing where possible. Maintaining a physical distance of 1.5 metres will not always be practical in the school environment. In these contexts, a combination of health and safety measures will be utilised to reduce risk.

Strategies that will be considered to support physical distancing include:

- reminding students, staff and visitors including through signage, of the importance of physical distancing where possible
- reconfiguring class spaces where possible, using all available space in the school.
- marking the floor indicating physical distancing in appropriate locations (e.g. canteens staff rooms and reception areas).

Face masks

For all school settings, the Victorian Chief Health Officer:

- Directs secondary school students aged 12 or older to always wear a face mask indoors and outdoors at school, unless a lawful exception applies.
- Directs secondary school students aged 12 or older to always wear a face mask when travelling to and from school on public transport, taxis or ride share vehicles.

There are a [number of lawful reasons for not wearing a face mask](#), including for staff and students who are unable to wear a face mask due to the nature of their disability, medical or a mental health condition. The previous list of students who have a mask exemption will be reinstated. If you have a lawful reason why your child cannot wear a face mask and have not previously told the college about this. Please notify the Front Office as soon as possible.

A face mask must cover the nose and mouth. Face shields, scarves or bandanas do not meet these requirements. Refusal to wear a mask without a lawful exemption is a breach of the Victorian Chief Health Officer Directions.

Stay home when unwell and get tested

The most important action school communities can take to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19, is to ensure that any unwell students remain at home and get tested, even with the mildest of symptoms. Everyone should consider their health before they attend school and ensure that they are free from coronavirus symptoms and have not had contact in the past 14 days with a person confirmed to have coronavirus or a person suspected to have coronavirus.

Vaccine Information

Please be aware, while vaccination is not mandatory for students, in alignment with health advice, vaccinations are strongly encouraged as the best way to protect individuals, families and school communities from further outbreaks and the spread of COVID-19. Extensive information has previously been communicated about the importance of vaccination and I encourage you to consider this carefully.

Associate Professor Margie Danchin from The University of Melbourne has developed a series of videos providing responses to COVID-19 vaccine questions. These may be found at <https://www.vaxfacts.org.au/> and may be a helpful resource for you.

School Events and other information

There are two tables included at the end of this document. The first is information I have previously provided regarding when students are on-site during the staggered return to on-site learning. The second is a handy reference to events and activities which can and cannot take place under the current restrictions.

Checking Exposure Sites

I am sure you are aware there is a growing list of Tier 1 and Tier 2 exposure sites within our area at the moment. Please continue to check the [exposure sites list](#) on the Victorian Government's Coronavirus website and take appropriate action if you believe you have been exposed. We are required to notify the Department of Education and Training if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 among our students or staff population. Please be sure to notify the college if this is the case for you.

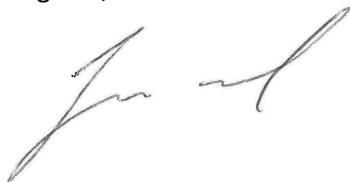
Students not on-site will continue with remote learning. At this stage all students will return to on-site learning from Tuesday 26 October.

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).

My approach to updates this term will be slightly altered. I will provide updates when there is vital information which needs to be shared with you all.

Take care of yourselves and each other.

Regards,



Simon Wood
Acting Principal – Castlemaine Secondary College

When is my child expected on-site?

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12
Monday 4 October	X	X	X	X	X	✓
Tuesday 5 October	General Achievement Test (GAT) students only					
Wednesday 6 October	X	X	X	X	✓	✓
Thursday 7 October	X	X	X	X	✓	✓
Friday 8 October	X	X	X	X	✓	✓
Weekend						
Monday 11 October	✓	X	X	X	✓	✓
Tuesday 12 October	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Wednesday 13 October	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Thursday 14 October	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓
Friday 15 October	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓
Weekend						
Monday 18 October	✓	X	X	X	✓	✓
Tuesday 19 October	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Wednesday 20 October	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Thursday 21 October	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓
Friday 22 October	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓
Weekend						
Monday 25 October	✓	X	X	X	✓	✓
Tuesday 26 October	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

What is allowed in schools under current restrictions?

Key actions	At Castlemaine SC
Face masks (see Face Masks in Schools)	YES – INDOORS AND OUTDOORS
COVIDSafe routine cleaning	YES
Community use of school playground / outdoors	YES For school use Community use can occur out of school hours only.
Community use of school facilities (indoors)	YES For school use Community use can occur out of school hours only.
Libraries (for borrowing and as a learning space)	YES
Visitors to schools	ESSENTIAL VISITS ONLY Visitors to school premises should be limited to essential school services and operations
Health, wellbeing, inclusion visits	YES
School tours	NO
Excursions	NO
Incursions	NO
School photos	NO
Camps and overnight stays	NO
Assemblies (whole school and year level), formals, graduations	NO
Statewide transition day	TBC
All sporting activities (indoor, outdoor, contact and non-contact)	YES
All interschool activities (such as debating)	NO
Singing, brass and woodwind classes and groups	YES Following recommended health advice