

May 14, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your support during this period of remote and flexible learning.

Following advice from the Chief Health Officer, the Victorian Government has advised that schools can begin a phased return to on-site schooling.

In the **first stage**, students in Prep, Grade 1 and Grade 2, senior secondary (**Years 11 and 12**; VCE, VET and VCAL) and all specialist school students will return to school from **Tuesday 26 May**.

In the **second stage** the remaining students from **Grade 3 to Year 10** will continue learning from home until **Tuesday 9 June**.

Year 10 students who are undertaking VCE and VET studies should attend school for these classes where practicable. Year 10 students who travel to school via the country bus system will be able to attend their VCE and VET classes and then work at school for the remainder of the day. If a Year 10 student does not have class on a particular day, then they are expected to learn from home. Year 10 students who are not country bus travellers, are expected to be in attendance for their accelerated classes only and will need to sign in and out of school.

To support school staff to prepare for this transition, **Monday 25 May will be a pupil-free day**. Originally we had scheduled Friday 22 May as a pupil free day but this has been changed to Monday 25 May. Please note that the Country Bus service will not be running on the pupil free day. We will continue with the **“Catch Up” day on Monday 18 May**, which we encourage to be “screen free” for staff and students.

For vulnerable children and those students who cannot be supervised at home, the existing model of on-site schooling will remain in place from Tuesday 26 May to Friday 5 June. The current process in place to enable parents and carers to indicate the days or part-days for which on-site schooling is required, will continue until Friday 5 June.

Once a year level has returned, all students will be expected to attend school as normal. This means if you choose to keep your child/children at home after their year level has returned to on-site schooling, we can no longer support remote learning. This does not apply to children who need to be absent for health or medical reasons. If this is the case, please contact the school so an appropriate plan can be put in place.

This approach is being taken by all Government schools in Victoria.

To support the health and wellbeing of our students and staff, the enhanced cleaning routine will continue and frequent hand washing will be encouraged.

If your child is ill or feeling unwell, they **must not** attend school. They are to remain at home and seek medical advice.

While the Chief Health Officer has advised that students will not be required to maintain physical distancing at school, there will be a number of important changes to our school operations, consistent with health advice. This will apply until further notice. I will provide more detail about our local school context as soon as possible, but it is important to note that changes will include:

- parents are asked not to leave their car when dropping off or picking children up;
- restrictions on access to the school site for anyone other than immediate school staff and students;
- the way we conduct parent-teacher meetings and interviews
- students are to bring their own drink bottle. Students will not be able to drink from the bubblers but will be able to refill their drink bottles from the refrigerated water stations outside the Senior Sub School and A4.

Students are reminded that upon returning to school the mobile phone restrictions will still be in place and they will be expected to be in full school uniform.

We understand that some families may feel anxious about the transition back to classroom teaching and learning. I can assure you that this decision has been taken on the basis of the best health advice available to our state.

More information about the return to school and coronavirus (COVID-19) can be found on the Department's website, which will continue to be updated:
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

Thank you for your continued support and patience during this time. We look forward to welcoming our students back to the classroom.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Sartori
Principal
Swan Hill College