



Wednesday August 11, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As most of you are aware, Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews, announced an extension of another 7 days to lockdown 6.0 in Victoria until midnight Thursday August 19.

All Catholic schools have transitioned to remote and flexible learning from Friday August 6. He also announced that if students can learn from home, they must learn from home for these 10 days, that is from Friday August 6 until Thursday August 19. We will continue the process of remote learning for the next 10 school days through a combination of Microsoft Teams meetings and information on class pages on MyPenola.

It is important that I reiterate from the outset of this communication that the safety of the Penola Community is our first priority in our decision making. I also wish to reiterate that we are aware that life has become challenging for many within our school community and that this Christ-centred school community wants to provide the best support and connection that we can achieve in these difficult times.

Penola Catholic College supports the Government's position to provide educational supervision to the dependents of essential workers who cannot work from home and/or vulnerable students throughout the 14 day lockdown. These people play a critical role in the safety of our community.

**If you believe your family is unable to facilitate remote learning due to being essential workers or for other specific reasons, could you please complete the following form, by clicking on the link below to register your child ASAP to enable us to plan appropriate supervision and support. Later requests will be considered, but we are trying to ascertain the level of current need for next week.**

[Click here to register your child for supervision at school](#)

I must reiterate that for those students who come to school, Penola can provide supervision only, to support these students accessing the remote learning plan. The supervisors will not be actively engaged in teaching; the student's regular teachers will do this remotely and will not be on campus. Students attending school will be required to wear masks to school and whilst indoors. A member of the Leadership team or Wellbeing team will contact each family seeking supervision, to discuss your specific needs.

I can let you know that supervision of these students will take place at the Senior Campus, 29 Gibson Street, Broadmeadows, as there is more space to ensure that students are socially isolating effectively. The Junior Campus will effectively be closed to all staff and students. In the interest of community safety we will be working to minimise the number of people who need to come on site at the Senior Campus which will mean that the gates will be closed and students will need to enter through reception.



### **Access to Both Campuses**

Both the Glenroy campus and the Broadmeadows campus will be open on Thursday August 12 from 8.00a.m. – 9.30a.m. and Friday August 13 from 12.00p.m. – 1.30p.m. for any staff or students to pick up additional books, resources or equipment that they may have forgotten. Students will need to report to reception to register that they are onsite.

There are a significant number of events that were planned for these days which will obviously not run. I have listed these below:

College Production – Monday August 9, Tuesday August 10 and Wednesday August 11

We will attempt to reschedule when students return.

2022 Year 11 Subject Counselling (Monday August 9 – Wednesday August 11) will take place in the Week of Monday August 23 – Friday August 27.

2022 Year 10 Subject Counselling (Wednesday August 11 – Friday August 13) will be rescheduled when students return

2021 General Achievement Test (Thursday August 12) will be rescheduled.

Year 10 Reflection days that were scheduled for next Wednesday August 18 and Thursday August 19 have also been postponed.

The Faith and Mission team will post a link to our pre-recorded Mass for this Sunday's Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin. This will be made available for all who may wish to view it via MyPenola and Facebook as we cannot attend Mass in our local parishes.

There was a remote learning day planned for all Year 12 VCE students on Friday August 20 so that students could complete their Year 12 English Oral Presentations but this has been rescheduled to Friday August 27. Additionally we are offering the Year 12 English students to attend on Wednesday September 1 to view the Complete Works Theatre Company presentation for their final area of study in English. This is a student -free day but is a compulsory activity for all Year 12 English students. More information will be provided closer to the date.

I know that remote learning is not ideal but I am proud of the efforts of the vast majority of our students in taking responsibility for their own learning during this lockdown period.

As parents, you have a critical role in helping the school manage this situation:

- Talk to your children about the situation, as they may be feeling anxious or stressed. You have a key role in helping students feel prepared and safe
- Encourage children to be proactive and committed to their schoolwork, and to stay connected with the school and their teachers.

These measures are aimed at giving health authorities the best opportunity to stop the spread of the virus in our community. I encourage all who are currently eligible for vaccines to get vaccinated as this is our only effective way out of these lockdowns.

I hope and pray that all within our Penola Catholic College community remain safe and well.

Regards  
Chris Caldwell  
Principal