



Monday, 16 August, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As most of you are aware, Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews, announced an extension of another 14 days to lockdown 6.0 in Victoria until midnight Thursday, 2 September.

All Catholic schools have transitioned to remote and flexible learning from Friday, 6 August. He also announced that if students can learn from home, they must learn from home for these 20 days, that is from Friday, 6 August until Thursday, 2 September. We will continue the process of remote learning for the next 20 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 28-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. Onsite students will now be located in the McCormack building rather than the ERC (Library). **Families are to provide lunch for their students, but no food deliveries will be accepted.**



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, 9 August, Tuesday, 10 August and Wednesday, 11 August.

We will attempt to reschedule when students return.

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

2022 Year 10 Subject Counselling (originally Wednesday, 11 August – Friday, 13 August) will take place online in the week of Monday, 30 August to Friday, 3 September.

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

VCAL Information Night scheduled for Wednesday, 25 August will still take place via TEAMS commencing at 6.00p.m.

Year 12 Parent Teacher Student Partnership Meetings will take place via TEAMS on Thursday, 26 August.

Wednesday, 1 September was scheduled to be student-free and will be a Wellbeing Day for staff and students to get a break from their screens.

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. I am particularly conscious of our Year 12 students' anxiety and concerns regarding their assessment and hope to hear from the VCAA regarding any changes with regards to assessment.

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