

Wednesday June 2, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As most of you are aware, Victorian Acting Premier James Merlino, announced an extension of the 7 day lockdown of Victoria from midnight Thursday June 3 to midnight Thursday June 10. Thank you for all your support during this past week of remote and flexible learning.

Following advice from the Chief Health Officer, the Victorian Government and the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) have advised that schools can begin a phased return to onsite schooling.

In the **first stage**, senior secondary students (Years 11 and 12 VCAL and VCE) will return to school from Friday June 4. Given both Year 10 and 11 students are beginning exams none of our Year 10 students will need to attend school unless they have a scheduled Year 11 exam which will be conducted onsite. Year 10 exams will take place online and more details about this will be communicated with our Year 10 students on the Year 10 page on MyPenola.

He also announced that if Years 7-10 students can learn from home, they must learn from home for the remaining days, that is from Thursday June 3 until Thursday June 10. We will continue the process of remote learning for the remaining school days through a combination of Microsoft Teams meetings and information on class pages on MyPenola.

In the **second stage** of our return to onsite schooling, all other year levels will return to school from Friday June 11.

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 and no later than midday Friday June 4 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 at all times.

Once we ascertain the number of people seeking supervision, we will provide more information about what that will look like. 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 front gate will be the gate open to students for entry and exit.

There are a significant number of events that were planned for these days which will continue to run but in some cases this will be online. I have listed these below:

Year 10 Exams Friday June 4 – Friday June 11 (Online)  
Year 9 PBL Preparation – Friday June 4 – Tuesday June 8 (Online)  
Year 9 PBL Presentation Night – Wednesday June 9 (Online commencing at 6.00p.m.)  
Year 11 Exams Friday June 4 – Friday June 11 (Held onsite)  
Year 11 English Oral presentations – Wednesday June 9 (Held onsite)

As all Year 10 parents should be aware through the letter on Operoo Year 10 Work Experience which was scheduled for Monday June 7 – Friday June 11 has been postponed until Term 3.

Year 11 Exams were initially scheduled for Thursday June 3 – Friday June 11 and these will go ahead. Year 11 students and any Year 10 student studying at Year 11 will come into school only for their exams and will return home once they have finished their exam.

At this stage the General Achievement Test for all VCE students studying at Units 3 & 4 level will remain scheduled for Wednesday June 9.

To support the health and wellbeing of all students and staff, our school will continue an enhanced cleaning routine and will encourage frequent handwashing.

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

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 hope and pray that all within our Penola Catholic College community remain safe and well. Thank you for your continued support and patience during this time. We look forward to welcoming Years 11 & 12 students back to the classroom.

Regards

Chris Caldow  
Principal