



Monday 23 March 2020

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School,

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #18 as at 6.30pm on Monday 23 March

Status Change – the School has been notified of a third confirmed case of COVID-19 within our learning community.

The School continues to work closely with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to identify and manage notifiable disease reporting.

This afternoon, Monday 23 March 2020, at 4.45pm, the School received notification that following testing, an employee (not a classroom teacher) at our Toorak Campus received a positive diagnosis of COVID-19. I have informed all parents at our Toorak Campus of this development.

As part of its contact tracing processes for confirmed COVID-19 cases, the DHHS will contact families directly if they are deemed to be at high risk; however, based on advice from our Senior Medical Officer, the employee was probably contagious from Wednesday 18 March (the day the campus closed for student learning) and as such students are not likely to be considered high risk. The DHHS will make their own decisions in this regard. Our senior leaders are working tirelessly to provide extensive mapping information of employee movement and contact to assist the DHHS.

Remote Learning

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to rapidly evolve and escalate, as do the associated State and Federal Government guidelines and advice. The School has prioritised the continuation of our learning programmes through the provision of Remote Learning, which commenced for Year 12 students on Friday 20 March and all students across Years 5-11 on Monday 23 March, whilst our younger students have been provided with home learning packs to supplement the online provisions.

In addition to the digital resources, interactive lessons and assigned prep, attendance and work are being recorded, monitored and feedback provided. Unless we are instructed otherwise by the State or Federal Governments, our teachers will continue to facilitate Remote Learning until the conclusion of Term 1, on Friday 27 March, as planned. We have enjoyed some early successes and some early challenges with the roll-out of Remote Learning @ GGS. These next few days will enable us to further refine our systems and processes. All feedback is received warmly by our [Remote Learning @ GGS team](#).

Fees

The School understands the challenging and uncertain times that parents are currently facing. Similar to many other enterprises, we are reviewing our business continuity. All matters of our business operations are under review and we will update you specifically in relation to fees in the coming weeks. As an immediate response, we have deferred the issuing of invoices for Term 3 fees which was scheduled for today.

Thank you

Please know that it continues to be most helpful when families communicate with the School in an open and timely manner regarding COVID-19 cases thereby enabling us to fulfil our civic duties by cooperating directly with the DHHS. The maintenance of transparent and proactive communication is in the interests of the safety and welling of our community.

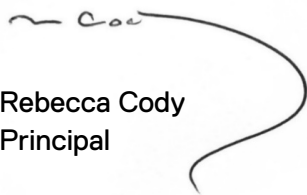
Please also continue to refer to the Australian Government's [Department of Health website](#). We encourage you to remain alert to the onset of symptoms and be kind to each other in such complex times.

We continue to be in contact with those members of our community who have received a positive diagnosis of COVID-19. We send our strength and care to all concerned.

Lastly for now, we are currently developing a new way of communicating with you about COVID-19: a dedicated web page will be available by the close of the week, inclusive of Fact Sheets, FAQs and other resources.

Stay safe, well and strong.

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Cody
Principal

Principal's Study

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