Tuesday 14 April 2020

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School,

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #21 as at 6.00pm on Tuesday 14 April

As outlined in Update #20 last Wednesday, we remain concerned about the potential impact of COVID-19 and continue to prioritise the health, safety and wellbeing of our students and staff. To reiterate:

- We are acting on the advice of the World Health Organisation (WHO), Federal and State Government Health and Education Departments, GGS’s Senior Medical Officer, WorkSafe and applicable Occupational Health and Safety legislation, and GGS’s Policies and Procedures. Most recently:
  - Victorian Government announcement on Tuesday 7 April that, “all children who can learn at home must learn from home – with exceptions only in extremely limited circumstances”.
  - Boarding schools being identified as “a high-risk setting” by the Victorian Government and as a residential facility “with an elevated risk of community transmission” of COVID-19 by the National Cabinet.
  - The extension of the State of Emergency in Victoria for an additional four weeks, until midnight 11 May 2020;
- We are focussed on purposeful and timely learning for students and meaningful employment for staff;
- We will continue to work purposefully and proactively towards the resumption of on-campus learning;
- The School will not knowingly place students or staff in a position of risk unless such risk may be reasonably mitigated.
  - This involves seeking the guidance and advice of medical experts and, in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), to develop plans which identify, manage and mitigate the risks unique to our context and relevant to our students, staff and wider School community;
- Until then, we are striving to provide the best remote learning opportunities we can; and
- Our planning cycle proceeds as a two-week cycle.

Updated Conditions of Entry and Business Notices
Through Remote Learning @ GGS, our students will continue their use of online and remote learning platforms. The School’s Conditions of Entry allow that the School may from time to time for administrative, educational and health purposes disclose personal and sensitive information or require the use of services that capture such information. To allow for this, the School’s Conditions of Entry have been amended to include reference to providers of online and remote learning platforms. In addition, the ongoing sibling discounts announced in Update #20 are now included in the updated Business Notices and Clause 1.4 confirms the application of the School’s Conditions of Entry to Overseas Students (being those students enrolled at the School pursuant to a student visa).
Thank you
With regards to the provision of on campus supervision of Remote Learning @ GGS, we appreciate the support of our community to help us balance the educational and medical needs created by the COVID-19 pandemic. We value and respect our civic duty to assist Australia’s response to COVID-19, whilst prioritising the safety, health and wellbeing of our students, staff and their families.

We are eager for the commencement for Term 2 tomorrow. Throughout the Term, our COVID-19 webpage will continue to be updated regularly. Again, should you have any queries or concerns please utilise the following email addresses:

- RemoteLearning@ggs.vic.edu.au; and
- C19questions@ggs.vic.edu.au

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Cody
Principal