



Friday 1 May 2020

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School,

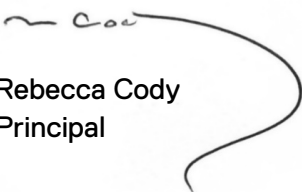
COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #25 as at 4.00pm on Friday 1 May

As we continue to work purposefully and proactively towards the resumption of on-campus learning, there remains differing and sometimes contradictory commentary between Federal and State Governments. This has been amplified by Federal Education Minister, Dan Tehan, offering to bring forward the July payment of recurrent funding if independent schools resume on-campus learning, with at least 50% in attendance, by 1 June.

- As Geelong Grammar School is a registered school with Victoria's education and training regulator, the Victorian Registration & Qualification Authority ([VRQA](#)), the School is required to follow the directions of the State Government and the medical advice of Victoria's Chief Health Officer;
- The Victorian Premier, Daniel Andrews, has indicated that the declared State of Emergency in Victoria will be reviewed on 11 May. It is our understanding that this review may include a reconsideration of direction to schools and we are optimistic that this will bring greater alignment between Federal and State Governments on students and staff returning to on-campus learning;
- The Federal Government is not offering any additional funding, only the early payment of 25% of the School's annual allocation of funding.
- Given our requirements to follow the directions of the State Government (as mentioned above), the School has not accepted the Federal Government's offer to bring forward the July payment; we will receive our funding allowance in the usual manner in July 2020; and
- As the situation evolves, our decision-making will continue to be guided by our [key principles](#), which prioritise the health, safety and wellbeing of our students and staff, as well as seeking to achieve equitable access for all students across our School.

Please be assured that the decision to receive funding from the Federal Government in the usual funding cycle does not in any way suggest a lack of commitment to return to on-campus learning or detract from the significant and detailed work being undertaken by the Executive and Leadership Team to scenario plan for all potential contingencies which will allow our School to respond in a timely, flexible and ultimately safe manner, when it is appropriate to do so.

Yours sincerely,


Rebecca Cody
Principal