



Tuesday 12 May 2020

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School,

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #28 as at 5.00pm on Tuesday 12 May

RE: Phased Resumption of On Campus Learning and Living

Following Victorian Premier [Daniel Andrews' announcement this morning](#), we are excited and prepared for a phased resumption of on campus learning and living. The Premier's announcement follows advice from Victoria's Chief Health Officer (CHO), Professor Brett Sutton, that it is safe for Victorian schools to resume face-to-face learning and we support the Government's staggered approach so that it can monitor and evaluate the effects of the re-opening of schools across the State.

What we can confirm

Our Executive and Leadership Team have completed significant and detailed planning to identify, manage and mitigate the risks posed by COVID-19; particularly those risks that are unique to our context as Australia's largest coeducational boarding school. It is our intention to proceed to a carefully staged recommencement of on campus learning and living based on our Action Plans:

- Senior School boarding students (being all Year 11 and 12 students and all Year 10 students undertaking VCE Units 1 and 2) will commence a staggered return to our Corio campus from Sunday 24 May;
- Senior School day students (being all Year 11 and 12 students and all Year 10 students undertaking VCE Units 1 and 2) will commence learning on our Corio campus from Monday 25 May;
- Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 students will commence at Bostock House and Toorak Campus from Monday 25 May;
- Bostock House Year 3 and 4 students will commence learning on campus from Monday 8 June;
- Corio Year 5, 6, 7 and 8 students will commence learning on campus from Monday 8 June;
- Toorak Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 students will commence learning on campus from Tuesday 9 June;
- We will continue to provide on campus supervision of our Remote Learning@GGS programmes at Bostock House, Corio and Toorak campuses for Years 3 to 8 to assist "parents who cannot work from home and vulnerable students without access to a suitable learning environment at home"; and
- Our Early Learning Centres (ELC) will continue to operate as normal at Bostock House and Toorak campuses.

Schools have been encouraged to implement a staggered drop-off system and **Heads of Campus will be providing specific information about the return to campus requirements by 4.00pm on Friday 15 May.**

We acknowledge that the phased return announced by the State Government this morning may cause inconvenience for some families with children across various year levels: however, we also respect the need to give the Government and the Chief Health Officer (CHO) time to monitor and evaluate the effects that the return to school by other year levels has on the increased movement of people and transmission within the community.

What we are seeking further advice on

Professor Sutton has advised that the re-opening of schools can proceed on a case-by-case basis with reference to the specific epidemiology. GGS's Action Plans include campus specific risk assessments for re-opening boarding at Corio and Timbertop based on the '14-48-14 Plan' (detailed in [Update #26](#) on Friday 8 May). These include comprehensive risk mitigation and risk management steps in order to lower the risk of transmission and promote positive health, hygiene and physical distancing within our residential facilities. Consequently, we are actively and urgently:

- Seeking advice from Victoria's Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) for Timbertop and Year 10 students at Corio to resume on campus learning and living based on our '14-48-14 Plan'. This approach is currently being reviewed by the highest levels of DHHS;
- Ideally for GGS, the return of Timbertop and all Year 10 students would align with return of our Year 11 and 12 students; and
- Liaising with appropriate authorities around overseas and interstate travel restrictions.

We expect further clarity about these arrangements within 48 hours, inclusive of COVID-19 testing logistics; **Update #29 will be published by 6.00pm on Thursday 14 May.**

Conditions of Return to On-campus Learning and Living

We require informed consent from families by acceptance of COVID-19 specific Conditions of Return to On-Campus Learning and Living as outlined in [Update #26](#). These Conditions require Corio and Timbertop students to self-isolate at home for a period of 14 days prior to return to campus: as per yesterday's [Update #27](#) this involves adhering to spatial distancing requirements and only participating in activities that comply with the Victorian Government's "[5 reasons](#)" to leave your home. Again, given our densely populated boarding communities at Timbertop and Corio, the GGS context represents particular risks; your engagement with our Conditions of Return requirements supports the School to actively mitigate the risk of infection and the potential of reinfection cycles.

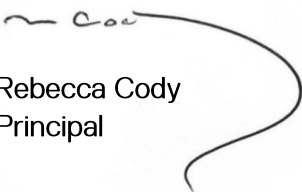
Thank you

I acknowledge the continued extraordinary service provided by our staff in these complex times. I also value deeply the changes families have made to support your children's education, as well as your understanding and acceptance as we endeavour to keep our community safe.

Next week I will publish a video statement for students. This communication will outline the necessary changes to our practices in this new world; adapting to COVID-19 brings inherent challenges and opportunities.

We are buoyed by today's State Government announcements; the return of your sons and daughters to our campuses is exciting news for us all.

Yours sincerely,


Rebecca Cody
Principal