



Thursday 14 May 2020

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School,

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #29 as at 6.00pm on Thursday 14 May

RE: Phased Resumption of On Campus Learning and Living

We continue to refine our preparations for a carefully staged recommencement of on campus learning and living. We are excited by the imminent return of students across all of our campuses and now require your engagement with our Conditions of Return, which will support the School to actively manage and mitigate the risk of COVID-19 infection and the potential of reinfection cycles.

Conditions of Return to On-campus Learning and Living

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. We require informed consent from families by acceptance of COVID-19 specific Conditions of Return to On Campus Learning and Living:

- [Addendum to Conditions of Entry – COVID-19 specific Conditions of Return to On Campus Learning and Living](#)

Testing process

Following the Victorian Government's decision yesterday to cease asymptomatic COVID-19 testing, we have been informed by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) that asymptomatic testing is **not** required for our Corio students. Accordingly, our return to on campus learning and living will now be based on the '**14+14 Plan**' outlined in [Update #26](#).

As the physical requirements (dormitory configuration) outlined in the [AHPPC guidelines for re-opening boarding schools and school-based residential colleges](#) cannot be met at Timbertop, as additional risk mitigation, we will be conducting COVID-19 testing on site. All Timbertop students will be tested upon their return to the campus based on our '**14-TEST-14 Plan**'.

Timbertop

Our Timbertop team has mapped three (3) options for the re-organisation of resumption of on campus learning and living. As part of a consultative process to determine the preferred outcome, Head of Campus, Tom Hall, will be distributing a survey to all parents and staff members this evening.

Please note, any rearrangement of Term dates is not currently being explored for Corio. We await relevant authority advice regarding examinations and will adjust our programmes in the best interests of student learning outcomes.

Year 10 students

In addition to the arrangements outlined in [Update #28](#), we are excited that recommencement of all Year 10 students will align with return of our Year 11 and 12 students. The majority of our Year 10 students are undertaking VCE Units 1 and 2 so the return of all Year 10 students will ensure the integrity of our '**14+14 Plan**'; specifically, the requirement for on campus 14 day 'internal group isolation' within each House:

- Year 10 boarding students will commence a staggered return to our Corio campus from Sunday 24 May; and
- Year 10 day students will commence learning on our Corio campus from Monday 25 May.

Return to campus requirements

The Victorian Government has encouraged schools 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.**

Overseas students

We continue our advocacy to both the Federal and State Governments in seeking an exemption for our Overseas Students to return to Australia to resume on campus learning and living. In the interim, we reiterate our commitment to continue Remote Learning@GGS to support these students.

For Australian citizens and permanent residents able to return to Australia at this time, our Overseas Student Officer, Emily Scarlett, will be in contact by email later this evening to assess options and arrangements.

Communication and Planning

We continue to actively monitor State and Federal Government guidelines and advice, and our planning cycle will be shaped around a two-week timeframe. As such, the [COVID-19 page](#) of the School website is refreshed regularly; we encourage you to check this site frequently and monitor email alerts from Heads of Campus.

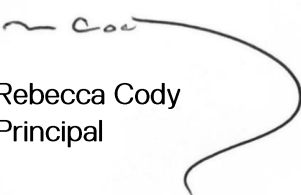
Similarly, a reminder to please direct all related queries to:

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

Until there is a vaccine available, we are all learning how to live with COVID-19. Such learning includes preparation of for the potential of infections on campus and a next round of Government restrictions if community transmission escalates. It is for these reasons that we won't be returning to pre-COVID-19 practices: instead, we'll be pivoting between former and new ways of being with an ongoing emphasis on community responsibility, connection and blended learning models. The latter involves continued heightened digital integration and differentiation to support our students both on and off campus. This is a complex endeavour. We are likely to make mistakes and initially this may lead to frustration; equally, we'll be doing our very best to enable quality educational experiences for all.

We are mindful that for a variety of reasons beyond our control, some boarding students will be unable to return to campus in Term 2. We absolutely understand the difficulty and disappointment that this represents. We are hopeful too that between now and the commencement of Term 3, positive progress to manage COVID-19 across the globe will enable an easing of travel restrictions and requirements. Until then, we are grateful for the opportunities we have now for a staggered return to on campus learning and living.

Yours sincerely,


Rebecca Cody
Principal