Thursday 21 May 2020

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School,

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #30 as at 7.00pm on Thursday 21 May

Today, I released a video message (7 minutes) for our students to support their transition back to campus. I have striven to highlight key routines with an age-appropriate levity and optimism for how we can best work together safely, adhering to new customs. This reset as we reengage on our four campuses is an opportunity to practice patience and demonstrate maturity and integrity by understanding that protocols are implemented to keep students and staff safe.

For primary students, the message is designed to be viewed with parents or guardians and will require family discussion. Teachers will also reiterate the salient points multiple times a day. Secondary students will be able to engage easily with the communication; perhaps their greatest challenge will be undoing years of well-established habits. Having said that, it is important to emphasise with our young people that working within constraints is a fact of life; some moments in time are more constraining than others yet in any situation to think and behave without limits can be foolhardy at best, and harmful at worst. Taking personal responsibility and accepting these changes for the safety of everyone is being asked of people all over the world; depending on one another to demonstrate the superpowers of great hygiene practices and physical distancing has become a baseline for global citizenship. The transfer of such routines to school environments will take a little adjustment and the benefits will be keenly felt.

Key Dates

- Senior School boarding students (being all Year 10, 11 and 12 students) will commence a staggered return to our Corio campus from Sunday 24 May;
- Senior School day students (being all Year 10, 11 and 12 students) 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;
- Timbertop Year 9 students will commence a staggered return to campus from Monday 8 June; and
- Toorak Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 students will commence learning on campus from Tuesday 9 June.
Overseas Students
I will be writing to overseas families with a comprehensive update regarding Federal and State requirements and implications for enrolment at Geelong Grammar School. This communication will be emailed directly to all concerned by next Wednesday via our Overseas Student Officer, Emily Scarlett.

Thank you
The preparations for returning to campus represent yet another significant body of work for our teaching and operational staff. Again, I thank them for their tireless efforts and care.

Coming back to campus means company and connectedness.
It means new ways of being and a chance to reset routines.
It is about community, care and cooperation.
Coming back is a gift.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Cody
Principal