



Thursday 4 June 2020

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School,

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #32 as at 7.00pm on Thursday 4 June

Our students, staff and families have done a wonderful job adapting to the new COVID-19 processes and protocols that have been implemented to keep everyone safe. There has been a successful resetting of routines, which will continue as we respond to a continually evolving situation with due consideration of the broader community context. One welcome development will be the imminent return of all remaining students across all four of our campuses:

- Bostock House Year 3 and 4 students will recommence learning on campus on Monday 8 June;
- Toorak Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 students will recommence learning on campus on Tuesday 9 June;
- Middle School boarding students (Years 5, 6, 7 and 8) will recommence a staggered return to our Corio campus on Sunday 7 June, with learning scheduled to commence for all Middle School students on Monday 8 June; and
- Timbertop Year 9 students will commence a staggered return to campus from Monday 8 June.

We have implemented comprehensive screening processes at all of our campuses and I remind students, staff and families of the importance of completing the [Daily COVID-19 Health Questionnaire](#) and carefully managing the drop-off and pick-up of students. Please note, a dedicated [Timbertop micro-site](#) has been created as a central space for questions regarding the return of students to the Timbertop campus.

Senior School

We acknowledge that the existing constraints can bring about frustrations. Change can be unsettling and often creates an understandable desire for things to return to 'normal'. One of the strong messages we have heard from leaders in Government though is that we must adjust to a 'new normal'. Currently the COVID-19 situation is very much in flux and it remains to be seen how a new normal will eventually be defined. In the meantime, we continue to move forward carefully in a stepwise manner in our effort to re-activate as many of the School's activities as possible. With our distinctive characteristics, being Australia's largest coeducational boarding school, we must continue to take a proactive and precautionary approach: given our scale, a COVID-19 outbreak at Corio would result in a number of health and logistic complexities for students and staff and must be avoided at all costs. We continue to refer to the [AHPPC guidelines for re-opening boarding schools and school-based residential colleges](#), with particular reference to the requirement to undertake "a facility-specific, systematic risk assessment, analysis and mitigation process to manage the risk posed by COVID-19".

Our Crisis Response Team continues to meet daily to review and reassess our processes and protocols as we work towards refining our Senior School learning model for the final two weeks of Term 2. These plans have been finalised and shared with Senior School students this afternoon. Our revised model incorporates feedback from students, teachers and parents, whilst working within the specifications of the Federal and State Governments' evolving guidelines.

From Monday 8 June we are implementing an academic timetable for Senior School that enables boarding and day students to share the same classrooms, as per their chosen course. For the reasons outlined above and to keep within the DHHS guidelines, we have limited this day and boarding student crossover

to two hours a day. In response to [medical evidence published this week](#), we have taken the additional step of requiring students to wear masks during class time. The sourced supply of masks was readily available from a local provider and masks are not currently subject to restricted purchasing. Consistent with our two-week planning cycle, this is a short-term investment for enhanced risk mitigation as part of our continued multifaceted approach to managing the COVID-19 risk. We are excited about evolving our Senior School learning model and remain committed to providing the best outcomes for our students within this context.

Overseas Students

Please note that the recent updates from our Overseas Student Officer, Emily Scarlett, regarding travel restrictions and enrolment options are relevant for those students enrolled at the School pursuant to a student visa (subclass 500). There are specific regulations that govern the enrolment of these students. If there are any travel or quarantine updates relevant to Australian citizens or permanent residents who are living overseas, Emily will be in contact directly with those families.

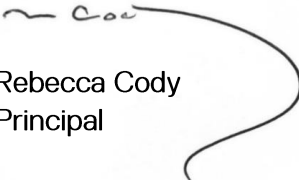
Term 3

We continue to actively monitor State and Federal Government guidelines and advice, and our planning cycle will remain within a two-week timeframe until the end of Term 2: any more frequently would be unmanageable, any less frequently and we risk being overtaken by events. Arrangements for Term 3 are dependent on those same guidelines, albeit with the expectation that restrictions will be lessened considerably as community transmission in Victoria and across Australia decreases. Indeed, we are hopeful for a return to more familiar scheduling and practices. As such, the [COVID-19 page](#) of the School website will continue to be 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

Yours sincerely,


Rebecca Cody
Principal