



Sunday 2 August 2020

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School,

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #47 as at 6.00pm on Sunday 2 August

We are currently developing campus-specific plans in response to the Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews' announcements regarding the declaration of a State of Disaster across Victoria and changes to restrictions for [metropolitan Melbourne](#) and [regional Victoria](#).

This afternoon I have been liaising directly with the Department of Education and Training (DET) regarding the status of our Boarding students at Corio and Timbertop. We are in the process of seeking an urgent and immediate exemption for Boarding students to remain on-site. If under the jurisdiction of a State of Disaster the associated health directives prevent boarders remaining on-site, we have specified it is logistically impossible for almost 900 boarders to exit by Wednesday 5 August. Similarly, we have outlined strongly the position that a significant number of our interstate and overseas students may not be able to travel home. Accordingly, boarding will need to operate in some form so that we can care for these students.

As we await further instruction and advice, we can confirm the following:

Bostock House

Classes at Bostock will operate tomorrow, Monday 3 August, and Tuesday 4 August will be a student-free day as teachers prepare to transition to remote learning. Primary students (Prep-Year 4) will move to our Remote Learning@GGS programme from Wednesday 5 August. We will provide on-campus supervision of our Remote Learning@GGS programme at Bostock House from Wednesday 5 August to assist “parents who cannot work from home” and “vulnerable children”. Our Early Learning Centre (ELC) is able to continue to operate and provide on-site learning. Our Head of Campus, Rachael Dewhurst, will communicate directly with our Bostock families regarding the provision of Remote Learning@GGS and on-campus supervision by tomorrow, Monday 3 August.

Corio

Day and Day Boarding students will move to our Remote Learning@GGS programme from Wednesday 5 August. We are in the process of seeking an urgent and immediate exemption from both the Department of Education and Training (DET) and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) for our Boarding students to remain on-campus at Corio. We acknowledge that some families will prefer to have their children at home. There will be an opportunity to collect your child from campus in the next few days and we will provide information about designated collection times. Our Head of Campus, Steven Church, will communicate directly with our Corio families with further details as soon as possible.

Timbertop

We are in the process of seeking an urgent and immediate exemption from both the Department of Education and Training (DET) and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) for our boarding students at Timbertop. Our Head of Campus, Tom Hall, will communicate directly with our Timbertop families with further details as soon as possible.

Toorak Campus

Primary students (Prep-Year 6) will continue our Remote Learning@GGS programme. Whilst the Government has indicated that there will be the ability to provide on-campus supervision for “very vulnerable” children and the children of workers in defined industries (details of those industries will be announced tomorrow), our Toorak Campus remains closed until further notice following the positive COVID-19 diagnosis of an employee. Our Head of Campus, Nicole Ginnane, will communicate directly with our Toorak families with further details about on-campus supervision and our Early Learning Centre (ELC) as soon as possible.

Overseas Students

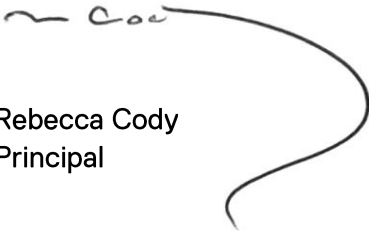
We acknowledge the additional challenges faced by our overseas students and we are working through the implications of Premier Andrews’ announcement for overseas students and Australian citizens and permanent residents who live overseas. Our Overseas Student Officer, [Emily Scarlett](#), will provide a further update to our overseas-based families as soon as possible.

I well understand that today’s announcements prompt multiple questions. We will be working overnight to resolve as many challenges as possible; greater clarity is expected to emerge in the coming days. In the meantime, our students will be supported superbly by our incredible team of dedicated professionals.

These communiques (my Updates) will increase in frequency over the next 72 hours and we appreciate your ongoing attention to the [GGS COVID-19 site](#). I will also be speaking with our Senior Schools students via webinar at 8.00pm this evening.

Please remain assured that we will continue to act proactively and responsibly in the best interests of the community.

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Cody
Principal

Principal's Study

50 Biddlecombe Avenue, Corio, Victoria, Australia 3214
T +61 3 5273 9247 E Principal@ggs.vic.edu.au

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CRICOS 00143G ABN 92 004 971 500 www.ggs.vic.edu.au