



Monday 3 August 2020

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School,

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #49 as at 7.00pm on Monday 3 August

We are still working through the impact of the Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews' announcements at 3.30pm this afternoon regarding restrictions for Victorian businesses. The Premier noted that he will be making progressive announcements over the next few days to provide the clarity and certainty that people need. We will continue to closely monitor the daily updates and announcements regarding the COVID-19 outbreak in Victoria and any changes to public health advice in consultation with our Senior Medical Officer, Professor Fergus Cameron.

Boarding Exemption from Stage 4 Business Restrictions

The Victorian Government, using sector classifications and specifically the classification of "Accommodation and Food Services", has exempted "boarding schools, residential colleges and university accommodation services" from the applicable [Stage 4 business restrictions](#), thereby allowing our Corio and Timbertop campuses to remain open (for on-site work). Whilst what we can and can't do in terms of educational provision within the context of a State of Disaster is not yet clear, securing the opportunity for our boarders to remain on-site is a tremendous outcome for Corio and Timbertop.

We feel so fortunate that our boarders have been gifted this exemption. Properly, we are ever mindful that for this to continue to work, we must hold our vigilance and accept that the new constraints apply to all families. For example, no leave provisions (except for essential medical matters) will be available to boarders. We wish to remind families too that should a positive COVID-19 case present on campus, the School would be under the direction of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and respond accordingly. Please make sure your COVID Emergency Contacts are kept up to date with our communications and requirements.

Throughout the pandemic, the School has exceeded all health and risk requirements as published by the State and Federal Governments and has maintained stringent controls in terms of COVID-19 response and planning. We remain satisfied that GGS can continue to operate safely, inclusive of a rapid response and bespoke testing regime. As ever, we will implement any further published COVID Safe requirements for our sector.

Indeed, we are well placed to care for our boarders on-site. Having said that, we equally appreciate that families have different needs at this unsettling time. If you wish to collect your child from Corio, please use the usual REACH protocols. Head of Campus, Steven Church, will shortly publish a departure schedule for our Corio campus.

Determining how we manage our (structure our learning and living) programmes at Corio and Timbertop will be based on:

- Directives from Victoria's Chief Health Officer (CHO);
- Further Government clarity on the educational provisions for boarders; and
- The number of boarders remaining on-site.

It is likely that further constraints will be placed upon us in the coming days. Families will need to talk through these constraints, appreciating that whatever the context, [Stage 3 restrictions are at play in regional Victoria from 11:59pm on Wednesday 5 August](#), and noting that the boarding environment requires additional risk mitigation layers.

Transition to Remote Learning@GGS

Primary Students:

Our primary educators across Bostock House, Corio and Toorak will be collaborating tomorrow, Tuesday 4 August, to enable effective cross-campus initiatives and educational programmes for all primary students. Remote Learning@GGS 2.0 programme will recommence for all primary students (Prep-Year 6) on Wednesday 5 August.

Corio (Years 7-8 and 10-12):

Tuesday 4 August: teachers will be in class at scheduled class times for teaching of on-campus students; teachers will set their computers to Zoom the lesson to all students who are remote.

Wednesday 5 August (likely to be the main travel day for boarders choosing to leave campus): student-free day as teachers prepare for transition to remote learning.

Thursday 6 August: Day 1 recommencement of Remote Learning@GGS 2.0 programme.

Timbertop:

Programme continues as usual as we await further direction from Victoria's Chief Health Officer (CHO).

On-Campus Supervision

We will provide on-campus supervision of our Remote Learning@GGS programme at Bostock House and Corio from Wednesday 5 August to assist "parents who cannot work from home" and "vulnerable children". For families seeking on-campus supervision, please register via this [link](#) by noon tomorrow, Tuesday 4 August, so that we may plan staffing and communicate about protocols required for attendance.

Since the declaration of the global pandemic, the School has consistently taken a highly precautionary approach compatible with State and Federal Government health directives and their implications for our School. Today's news for boarding is welcomed warmly. We acknowledge too the disappointment for our day students. None of this is easy; our community efforts to limit movement across the State are necessary though.

More information will follow in the next 24 hours. Thank you for working with us so positively to make the most of the challenges at hand.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Cody
Principal

