



Wednesday 19 August 2020

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School,

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #54 as at 11.30am on Wednesday 19 August

Last Friday represented the culmination of much logistical and pastoral planning as we assisted boarding students who could “safely and practically” return to their family home to do so. For those boarders remaining on-site and engaging with remote learning, the genuine peer support evidenced across our now composite House arrangements for Years 7-12 students is uplifting. The Hermitage and Cuthbertson House are hosting a unique experience and no doubt memorable time for our students. I am grateful to our staff for their capacity to engage with this concept so swiftly and continue to prioritise student engagement and wellbeing.

Remote Learning@GGS 2.0

Our Timbertop students commenced remote learning this morning. All our students and teaching staff across our four campuses are now meaningfully engaged in our Remote Learning@GGS 2.0 programme.

I again applaud our phenomenal staff, students and families for their collective efforts across this challenging time. We are incredibly grateful for the overwhelmingly positive and supportive feedback as we endeavour to provide an exceptional remote learning experience for all our students for the remaining weeks of Term 3.

As ever, we are adapting and responding to any concerns raised; a new student link for Years 7-12 has been established on the [My School section](#) of the Portal for those students with improvement ideas.

A reminder too that we continue to update learning and wellbeing resources for students and on the [COVID-19 page](#) of the School website.

Transport and Interstate Travel

We continue to liaise directly with State Health Directions Teams to support families with the detailed requirements of cross-border travel and associated exemptions. We acknowledge the patience of families working with our Corporate Services team as the School seeks an equitable outcome for students across both varied and varying State Government requirements. We note that some exemptions have been granted based on location and supported by the strict COVIDSafe requirements met at our Corio and Timbertop campuses, and remain committed to supporting those families seeking a review of current published Health Directions.

Parents are reminded that correspondence to support cross-border travel and requests for assistance with exemptions (as may be sought based on your child’s particular circumstances) should be requested by email to C19questions@ggs.vic.edu.au. Our Corporate Services team will assist with the specific requirements for each State, can inform you of the exemptions specifically available for our students or which may be able to be sought noting that, whilst the School will always advocate for equitable outcomes across our students, such decisions ultimately rest with each State Government.

Toorak Campus

Our Toorak Campus re-opened this morning for students whose parents are [permitted workers](#) and for whom no other arrangements can be made as per the [Department of Education and Training guidelines](#) for schools in metropolitan Melbourne. Our Early Learning Centre has also re-opened to provide care for children as outlined by the [Department of Health and Human Services guidelines](#) for childcare and kinder.

The campus has been closed since Tuesday 28 July when an employee (not a classroom teacher) was identified as a close contact of a positive diagnosis (and subsequently also received a positive diagnosis). The School completed a deep clean, disinfecting all areas of the campus using a thermal fogging machine. As a highly precautionary response, we also provided COVID-19 testing for students and staff who were on campus at the same time as the employee (Monday 27 July-Tuesday 28 July). We received notification from DHHS on Sunday 16 August that the campus was able to re-open, subject to restrictions in place in the local area.

Term 3 Fees

In line with our approach in Term 2, the School has reviewed the best way to support our families, regarding the payment of fees. It is clear the impact of COVID-19 will be sustained and complex to manage. This is a complicated period for us all and with little certainty ahead as to how this pernicious disease will evolve. In determining what we can safely and compliantly deliver, we continue to make decisions in the context of Government directives and recommendations related to both health and education requirements. The School must balance the short-term implications of these requirements with a long-term view, in order to ensure the School continues to be financially sustainable.

The School has been fortunate to receive Jobkeeper, having fulfilled the eligibility criteria of a greater than 30% decline in income. This has enabled the School to support our highly valued staff through this difficult period.

Following feedback from parents and detailed deliberation by Council, it has been determined that the following will apply for the fees payable for Term 3.

Fees - Boarding

For any full week period in Term 3 where Boarding students have not been in residence, the School will refund the Boarding component of the fee for those full weeks. This will be credited to your child's Term 4 account, which will be issued in the week commencing 17 August 2020.

Fees - Adjusted Programme (all campuses) and Meals (Corio and Timbertop)

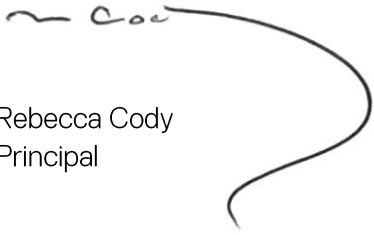
The School has also reviewed the adjustments for the non-boarding element of the fees and similarly, for full weeks where the Remote Learning@GGS 2.0 programme has been in place, the following will apply:

- For students in Years 7-12 at our Corio and Timbertop campuses, the School will apply a blanket 20% discount to the non-boarding component of the fees to adjust for those components of the programme which cannot be delivered. This 20% blanket discount is applied across all non-boarding components, including meals (which are in common for both Day Boarders and Boarders);
- For students in Prep-Year 6 at Toorak and Bostock House, the School will apply a 15% discount. The reduction in discount from Term 2 reflects the enhancements to the Remote Learning@GGS 2.0 programme in Term 3;
- For students in Years 5-6 at Corio, the School will apply a 20% discount (this discount reflects the meals component provided on this site);
- Existing Scholarship concessions will be applied pro rata; and

- For ELC students, in line with Government requirements, the School we will only charge for those days on which students attend.

Amongst our efforts to stay safe and well, we can equally energise hopefulness; “this too shall pass”.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Cody', followed by a large, sweeping flourish that extends to the right and then curves back down.

Rebecca Cody
Principal