



Friday 28 August 2020

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School,

### **COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #55 as at 5.00pm on Friday 28 August**

We continue to closely monitor the daily updates on the outbreak of COVID-19 in Victoria and are relieved that today represented the State's equal lowest number of new cases in almost eight weeks. We also note the comments by Victoria's Education Minister, James Merlino, on Wednesday that he was "confident" schools will return to face-to-face teaching and learning in Term 4. Ultimately, this decision rests with the Chief Health Officer, Brett Sutton, who has suggested there will be a "staggered" start to Term 4. The State Government has confirmed that the final decision on Term 4 will be made before the end of Term 3 on September 19 and we continue to work optimistically towards welcoming students and staff back to on-campus learning and living. As ever, we will prioritise the health, safety and wellbeing of our students and staff as we evolve our wide-reaching risk mitigation steps in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Parent-Student-Teacher Conversations**

Today is the final day of Semester 2 Parent-Teacher-Student Conversations, which have been conducted via video conferencing for Corio families from Years 7-12. We appreciate the willingness of our families to embrace new technologies (including the Parent Teacher On-Line (PTO) booking system) to participate in these conversations which provide vital feedback and lead towards improved learning outcomes for our students. I have been so heartened by the high attendance with this year's conversations and the chance for more parents to engage with the fine educators who care for our learners and their development.

### **Year 12 Parent Information Webinar**

Our Head of Corio, Steven Church, will be hosting a Year 12 Parent Information Webinar at 7.00pm on Tuesday 1 September. The webinar will include a presentation from our Head of Careers, Peter Craig, about applying for tertiary courses, as well presentations from IB Coordinator, Steve Griffiths, and VCE coordinator, Mal Widdicombe. There will be opportunities for parents to ask questions at the conclusion of each presentation. Our Director of Learning, Kay Long, has provided Year 12 parents with a Zoom link to join the webinar.

### **Institute of Positive Education Insight Series – Hugh Mackay**

Our Institute of Positive Education is hosting its fourth online Insight Series event with respected Australian social psychologist, researcher and bestselling author, Hugh Mackay, at 7.30pm on Wednesday 2 September. Based on his new book, *The Inner Self*, Hugh will explore the differences between our 'inner' and 'social' selves, and in the process, take us to the heart of what it means to be human. To learn more and register to attend please follow the [Event Booking link](#).

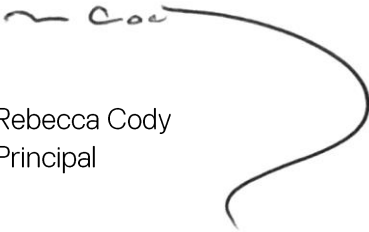
### **Supporting Your Child**

The ongoing pandemic has presented new challenges for families, with disruptions to daily life and increased concerns about health and wellbeing. We have collated a range of resources for parents and students on our dedicated [COVID-19 web page](#). These include a flyer about [Supporting Your Child - Resources for Parents during Remote Learning 2.0](#) that aims to assist parents and families in prioritising daily wellbeing practices and responding to the challenges remote learning and COVID-19 may pose. The

[Reconnect GGS page](#) also contains a range of wellbeing activities for individuals or groups, from yoga and meditation practices, to brain breaks and activities for cultivating character strengths. The Victorian Government too has funded the [Positive Parenting Program \(Triple P\)](#), which provides simple, practical strategies, like encouraging positive behaviour and setting rules and routines to help balance work and family life.

As spring emerges, so too does a brighter horizon ahead. I'm excited for Term 4 and remain deeply grateful for all that continues to triumph through this period of unanticipated constraints.

Yours sincerely,

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

Rebecca Cody  
Principal