



Monday 7 September 2020

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School,

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #57 as at 5.00pm on Monday 7 September

Following yesterday's announcement by the Victorian Premier, Daniel Andrews, regarding the State's [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) roadmap to reopening](#), we continue to refine our scenario planning for the start of Term 4. Our Executive and Leadership Teams have completed significant and detailed planning to identify, manage and mitigate the risks posed by COVID-19 for Term 4; particularly those risks that are unique to our context as Australia's largest coeducational boarding school. We have benefitted from our experiences of coordinating student returns in Terms 2 and 3, and we plan with confidence in those measures that provided a stable, COVID-free environment. We also lean into the ongoing progression and flexibility of our Remote Learning@GGS 2.0 programme, which has been supported by the exceptional efforts of our staff, students and families.

Return to On-Campus Learning and Living – Term 4

We are working optimistically towards welcoming students and staff back to on-campus learning and living in Term 4, progressing our detailed campus-specific planning with reference to the restrictions for metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria outlined in the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) roadmap](#):

- **Bostock House Prep-Year 4 students** will commence Term 4 on Tuesday 6 October with our Remote Learning@GGS 2.0 programme before returning to on-campus learning from Monday 12 October;
- **Toorak Prep-Year 2 students** will commence Term 4 on Tuesday 6 October with our Remote Learning@GGS 2.0 programme before returning to on-campus learning from Monday 12 October;
- **Toorak Years 3-6 students** will commence Term 4 on Tuesday 6 October with our Remote Learning@GGS 2.0 programme before a scheduled return to on-campus learning from Monday 26 October as part of the [Third Step](#) of the roadmap for metropolitan Melbourne (subject to "trigger points" and public health advice);
- **Middle School Years 5-8 students** at Corio will commence Term 4 on Tuesday 6 October with our Remote Learning@GGS 2.0 programme, with boarding students returning to our Corio campus from Thursday 8 October, and on-campus learning scheduled to commence for all Middle School students on Monday 12 October;
- **Timbertop Year 9 students** will commence a staggered return to campus from Monday 5 October, allowing for a period of 'internal group isolation' before face-to-face classes can resume post the State sanctioned date of Monday 12 October;
- **Senior School boarding students (Years 10-12)** will return to our Corio campus on Sunday 4 October; and
- On-site COVID-19 testing for **all Senior School students (boarding and day)** will be undertaken on campus on Monday 5 October. School-based assessments and examinations will be conducted on-

site from Monday 5 October-Friday 9 October (including the General Achievement Test (GAT) on Wednesday 7 October), before face-to-face classes can resume from Monday 12 October.

As was implemented for students returning in Terms 2 and 3, we will employ a range of preventative strategies for the staged return to on-campus learning and living in Term 4. These measure will be campus-specific and will include an emphasis on spatial distancing, excellent hygiene practices, daily temperature checks, wearing of face coverings/masks and the completion of our [Daily COVID-19 Health Questionnaire](#), as appropriate. We will be extending weekend exeat/leave restrictions at Corio and cancelling the Term 4 exeat at Timbertop to reflect the high-risk residential setting at those campuses.

Students and staff at our Corio and Timbertop campuses will also be required to undertake a COVID-19 test and an initial period of 'internal group isolation' until the receipt of a negative test result (with test results anticipated within 48 hours). Testing will be conducted on-site through a private provider and the associated cost (\$110 inclusive of GST) will be included on the Student Fee Statement when issued. Testing is required on-site in order to provide the most up to date testing following students having transited through transport hubs and arrived from communities all over the country. In addition, this allows for asymptomatic testing, which is not currently accessible through public health services, coupled with the expedited turnaround of results, which is a significant protective factor for our staff and students.

Heads of Campus will be providing specific information about start of Term 4 requirements before the end of Term 3 on Friday 18 September (and for Timbertop, by end of Term 3 tomorrow).

Geelong

We noted the Premier's comments yesterday that health authorities were keeping a "close watch" on the Geelong region and that the Victorian Government may treat the "Geelong corridor" separately to regional Victoria if case numbers warrant tighter restrictions. We will continue to monitor Government advice and update our campus-specific planning for Bostock House and Corio accordingly.

Early Learning Centres (ELC)

Our Early Learning Centres (ELC) at Bostock House and Toorak Campus continue to operate within the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) roadmap](#):

- ELC at Bostock House continues to provide on-site learning under the [Second Step](#) of the State Government's roadmap for regional Victoria, with a COVID Safe plan and appropriate risk-mitigation measures in place; and
- ELC at Toorak Campus continues to provide on-site learning for permitted workers (under the [Permitted Worker Permit Scheme](#)) and vulnerable children under the [First Step](#) of the State Government's roadmap for metropolitan Melbourne.

Communication and Planning

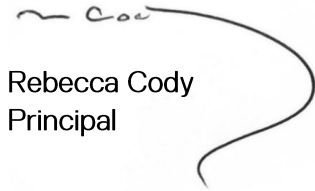
The School will communicate with you swiftly and accurately as the situation in Victoria evolves. As such, the [COVID-19 page](#) of the School website will continue to be refreshed regularly; we encourage you to check this site frequently and monitor email alerts from Heads of Campus. Please note, we are awaiting the Victorian Government's Schools' Operations Guide for Term 4 to be published; our plans are subject to change based on the advice within.

We reiterate that in planning a return to on-campus learning and living in Term 4, the more cautious choices we make now, the better for a swift and safe return to campus. We encourage sensible choices that prioritise safety and are relevant to your child's context. We highlight the necessary wearing of face covering/masks when travelling on airplanes, trains and buses (congested public spaces). We also require all boarding students to have up to date contact details for a 'COVID Emergency Contact' who, if a student cannot be collected by a parent, will immediately attend at Corio or Timbertop to collect the student if they are unwell, present COVID-19 symptoms or may have been exposed to COVID-19. Given

our context, such community-minded endeavours will assist to safeguard the commencement and continuation of Term 4.

Thank you for your understanding and patience as we keep adapting to this changeable context. The ease with which we adapt is oftentimes connected to our levels of hopefulness. Last week's [Chapel Service](#) for our Senior School students supports the replenishing of hope – enjoy!

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Cody
Principal