



Monday 18 October 2021

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School (GGS),

**COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #53 as at 3.00pm on Monday 18 October**

It has been wonderful to finally welcome the return of students and staff to on-site learning at Toorak Campus in Term 4, with Prep students returning for face-to-face learning today. We have also been buoyed by the advances in Victoria reaching its 70 per cent double dose vaccination target ahead of schedule and welcome the subsequent easing of restrictions on Victoria's [Roadmap to Deliver the National Plan](#).

- For Bostock House, Corio and Timbertop, all year levels will return to full-time on-site learning two school days earlier, from Friday 22 October rather than Tuesday 26 October as originally stated; and
- For Toorak Campus, the arrangements that would have applied from Tuesday 26 October will now apply from Friday 22 October, with Years 5-6 students returning to face-to-face learning this Friday.

**Return to on-site learning – Bostock House and Corio**

Year levels	From Monday 11 October	From Friday 22 October
Prep	✓	✓
Years 1-2	✓	✓
Years 3-4	Tuesday-Wednesday	✓
Years 5-6	Thursday-Friday	✓
Year 7	✓	✓
Year 8	Tuesday-Wednesday	✓
Year 10	Thursday-Friday	✓
Year 11	✓	✓
Year 12	✓	✓

**Return to on-site learning – Toorak Campus**

Year levels	From Monday 18 October	From Friday 22 October	From Monday 5 November
Prep	Monday to Wednesday	Monday to Wednesday	✓
Years 1-2	Thursday-Friday	Thursday-Friday	✓
Years 3-4		Tuesday-Wednesday	✓
Years 5-6		Thursday-Friday	✓

We are uplifted by the return of on-site learning. We are grateful too for the grit demonstrated by students and staff alike during the prolonged periods of remote learning.

**Vaccination Policy for Staff, Contractors and Volunteers**

The School is subject to a series of Health Directions, Operations Guides and Advices which govern and provide guidance on many COVID-related matters. Specifically, the Victorian government's *COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination Directions (No 8)* effective from Thursday 7 October 2021 required that education workers who enter School premises must receive their first COVID-19 vaccination by Monday 25 October

2021 and their second vaccination by Monday 29 November 2021. Under the Directions, the School must collect, record, and hold vaccination information about education workers.

The definition of education workers is broad and has required the School, in a very short space of time, to communicate the requirements of the Mandatory Vaccination Direction to all staff, contractors and volunteers. We are grateful to staff who have assisted with the regulatory requirements which have been expertly managed by our Employee Engagement Team. In the 11 days since publication, the Mandatory Vaccination Directions have been through 8 iterations; the adaptability and patience shown by our staff are commendable.

Given the breadth of contractors and volunteers, the School has commenced this significant piece of work with all current contractors (with well over 3,000 businesses and individuals engaged with the School) and this will then roll out to volunteers, which will include parent volunteers. Given the essential worker restrictions, parent volunteers are not currently able to attend on any of our campuses. Supporting our volunteers to continue their valuable work for GGS will be included in our planning for the commencement of 2022; please note, vaccination information will be sought by the School at this time.

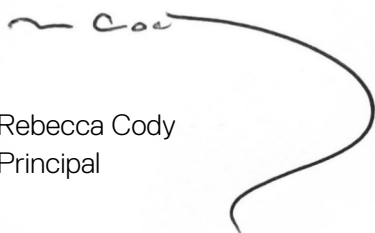
We have rightly prioritised the work to roll out this wide-reaching programme. For awareness, the Victorian government has advised that spot audits will be undertaken to confirm compliance; in the event of non-compliance significant penalties (in the order of \$100,000) apply.

### **Thank you**

Today it feels as though the State is moving into a different phase of managing the pandemic. No doubt there will continue to be challenges ahead; equally, no doubt our community will continue to rally to work calmly and kindly together. Thank you for your contributions, support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Cody  
Principal

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.