

Saturday 21 August 2021



## **Lockdown 6b – Remote Schooling Arrangements**

Good afternoon Parents and Carers,

It is disappointing to write to you this afternoon to detail arrangements ahead of a seventh return to remote schooling. From a public health perspective, the repeated lockdowns are clearly necessary but the past couple of weeks onsite had given hope that perhaps students and staff would avoid further disruptions.

### **Return to Remote Schooling**

This morning's announcement confirmed a lockdown across regional Victoria and therefore remote schooling until at least **Thursday 2 September 2021**.

This Monday 23 August will be a **preparation day** for all teachers with no scheduled online classes for students. Students studying Year 11 & 12 subjects are encouraged to check their relevant Google Classrooms where work may be added to complete ahead of the formal move to online classes on Tuesday 24 August.

### **Alpine Trip**

The announcement that regional Victoria is returning to lockdown means that the much-anticipated Year 10 Ski Trip will not proceed. I am sure that this result is the most disappointing aspect of today's news especially as students, staff and families have worked so hard to make the trip a reality. A special thanks to all who undertook a Covid test yesterday as part of the preparations.

With the length of the coming lockdown and the seasonal nature of the alpine resorts, it is highly unlikely that alternative arrangements will be possible. The College will be in touch with Howman's Gap and Falls Creek next week to clarify arrangements for refunds and we will communicate these as soon as possible.

### **Collection of Materials**

With no confirmation of the lockdown prior to the weekend, many students may need to collect materials from offices and lockers.

The College will be open on **Monday morning (8.30am – 12.00pm)** for the collection of materials. Please enter via the main High St gates outside Hilary and O'Neill. Students will need to wear a face mask, scan the QR code on arrival and observe social distancing rules.

Families and students are encouraged to spread your arrival across the morning as there may be significant numbers of people needing to access the site.

### **Arrangements for Remote Schooling**

A summary of the arrangements for the next two weeks:

- Remote learning will return to the arrangements that have been in place for recent lockdowns with Year 7 – 10 classes operating for an hour and commencing with a short Zoom instruction from their teacher.

- Year 11 & 12 classes will operate as normal with teachers negotiating with students as needed. In general, these classes will also commence with a short Zoom instructional session.
- Where possible, assessments will be postponed until students' return to onsite learning.
- Updated Parent and Student Remote Learning Handbooks are available via SIMON and the PAM module – Coronavirus Information.
- Any Workplace Learning or Work Experience placements are not permitted.

### **Year 11 & 12 Students**

Yesterday saw the Victorian Government announce a range of special arrangements for VCE and VCAL students given the extended nature of remote schooling in metropolitan Melbourne. We will review these announcements plus any further information this weekend to determine any additional provisions for senior students.

### **Excursions and Scheduled Events**

- All excursions and internal/external cocurricular activities planned for coming weeks have been postponed or cancelled.
- The College Leadership Team will meet on Monday to confirm alternative arrangements for these activities if possible.
- At this stage, I expect the 2021 SHC Debutante Ball to be postponed from next month until February 2022. When this decision is confirmed, full details will be emailed to all Year 11 families.

### **Onsite Supervision**

There will be limited onsite supervision of students available during remote learning (starting Tuesday 24 August). This option is one of last resort with students simply completing normal Zoom classes at school. No additional teaching support is available.

Onsite supervision is only available in specific situations:

- a) Where home learning is not possible as both parents are essential workers as defined by the State Government
- b) Where remote learning is not possible because of ongoing lack of internet access
- c) Where students have an acknowledged disability and appropriate learning is not possible at home

Full details on onsite supervision arrangements are included in an accompanying document with parents required to submit a formal request for onsite supervision at least one day in advance.

### **IT Support**

If there are families who have issues with internet coverage please contact the College or the relevant Year Level Leader. Sacred Heart College has a limited number of wireless dongles that can be provided to families. Other issues with devices should be managed according to the process outlined in the Remote Learning Handbook.

Yours in Mercy,



**Dr Darren Egberts**  
**Principal**