



Friday 1 October 2021

Onsite and Remote Schooling Arrangements for Term 4

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Yesterday, the Victorian Government announced the details of the return to onsite learning for students in regional Victorian schools. This timeline sees all Sacred Heart College students return to onsite learning by Tuesday 26 October 2021.

As you may have seen in yesterday's news bulletins, the return to onsite learning will be staggered for the first few weeks of Term 4. The following diagram details these arrangements:

Year Level	From 4 October 2021	From 6 October 2021	From 11 October 2021	From 26 October 2021
7			Onsite	Onsite
8 & 9			Onsite Tuesday & Wednesday	Onsite
10			Onsite Thursday & Friday	Onsite
11		Onsite	Onsite	Onsite
12	Onsite	Onsite	Onsite	Onsite

Some Year 10 and 11 students completing accelerated VCE and VET subjects will be expected to attend these classes onsite. Further details will be communicated with the students concerned.

Remote learning will continue for all students who are not onsite according to the arrangements that have been in place previously.

Possible School Lockdown

Notwithstanding the increasing levels of vaccination amongst students, staff and families, the possibility remains that a Covid positive case may be reported in our community. The College has clear guidelines for responding to such an event and consequent implications for students (including students completing final year studies).

Covid-Safe Guidelines for Onsite Learning

To ensure that Sacred Heart College is as safe a learning environment as possible, the following Covid-Safe Guidelines will be in place:

- Hand sanitising as students enter and depart classrooms, toilets and other school buildings.
- Masks need to be worn in all areas inside and outside. They must be worn correctly covering both nose and mouth. Students must bring their own mask to school. If masks break or are damaged, disposable masks can be accessed through the College First Aid centre.
- Masks will also need to be worn while on school buses.
- Students are required to stay home if they are feeling unwell. Even the mildest of flu-like symptoms should be followed up with a Covid-19 test.
- Where possible, density limits will be emphasised in all internal spaces as well as using natural ventilation and outdoor learning areas (weather permitting).

Vaccination Advice

Any advice on vaccinations/testing that schools receive and communicate is directly from the Victorian Government and their health authorities. The most recent advice to parents is as follows:

- All parents and students are encouraged to consider the information provided at coronavirus.vic.gov.au regarding vaccines and testing.
- To keep school communities safe, and to support the reopening of communities, schools are strongly encouraging all eligible students to be vaccinated for their own safety and to support the safety of the community.
- Vaccinations for students are voluntary but the more students who are vaccinated, the better the protection for the community at large and Sacred Heart College in particular.
- The Victorian Chief Health Officer has determined that vaccinations are mandatory for all staff and volunteers in schools. This includes principals, teachers, administration and education support staff, including casual relief teachers and pre-service teachers, and any permitted volunteers.
- All staff are required to be fully vaccinated by December 15 2021 unless a medical exemption applies and will be required to show evidence of their vaccination status.

Onsite Supervision

Limited onsite supervision of students will continue to be available during remote learning. This option is one of last resort with students onsite 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.

Wellbeing Support

Students, families and staff have been significantly affected by the uncertainty associated with the extended and repeated lockdowns and remote schooling. These wellbeing concerns will continue with the return to onsite learning. The College's Wellbeing team remain available to support students and families who are nervous or uncomfortable about the ongoing uncertainty of Coronavirus. They can be contacted through homeroom teachers, Year Level Leaders or directly via the College website – Wellbeing.

College Co-Curricular Activities

Decisions with respect to College events, camps, excursions and incursions will be made in coming days following the return of students. I will communicate these as soon as possible. At this stage, we hope as many of the planned or rescheduled activities are able to proceed.

Yours in Mercy,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Egberts', with a stylized, cursive script.

Dr Darren Egberts
Principal