



18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I write to update you about the College's management of the current concerns about the Coronavirus situation.

Thank you for your ongoing support to protect the safety and wellbeing of all of our students by addressing the matters raised in my letter (dated 13/03/2020) and in particular, discussing personal hygiene practices with your daughter/son.

We have no reported cases of the virus and remain alert with a management plan in place that we will adapt to the situation as necessary. Please ensure that if your daughter/son is a confirmed case or a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19, that you contact me asap.

The rapid evolution of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak continues to be a challenge for everyone in education.

I am aware that it has caused concerns for parents, staff and students.

Because the health and safety of our school community is our highest priority, the school's decision to stay open is based on advice from the Australian and Victorian Chief Medical Officers and relevant education authorities including, Catholic Education Melbourne.

Currently, the advice of Dr Brett Sutton, Victorian Chief Health Officer, is that 'pre-emptive school closures are not likely to be proportionate or effective as a public health intervention to prevent community transmission of COVID-19 at this time'.

When advice from the Chief Medical Officers changes, we will communicate those changes to our school community.

We continue to monitor developments actively and are working closely with the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV).

The CECV is partnering with the Victorian Department of Education and Training, and the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services to ensure our practices reflect current advice and support the needs of our school community.

I am receiving regular updates from the CECV and ensuring school leaders and staff are aware of coronavirus reporting and management practices. They are well-placed to respond as circumstances change.

The school's leaders and teaching staff are committed to ensuring that learning remains available to students as part of all students' entitlement to access the Victorian curriculum.

We have plans in place to support students to learn from home if a school closure eventuates but, while we remain open, the emphasis will be on the learning and teaching currently in place in the classroom. As you are aware, we are in a very good position to provide for remote learning through technology and in particular, Canvas.

In addition to the list of school events and activities that have been cancelled or postponed, the Year 10 Work Experience Program scheduled for the last week of term two has been cancelled. The Year 10 students will attend their usual classes during this week. Structured Workplace Learning for Yrs 11 & 12 VCAL students has been suspended, until further notice. The students participating in this program should attend school instead of the workplace. Parents of VCAL students affected by this change will receive a letter about this via 'Caremonkey.'

I visited many classes yesterday to find classes were functioning very well, and to their credit, the students were continuing to be actively engaged in their learning. The smallest daily student attendance over the last week was 80%.

Please contact the school directly to discuss educational continuity options.

Should you have any concerns relating to school operations, or the health and safety of students, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



Michael Exton  
Principal