What interesting times we see ourselves in. The past few weeks have been filled with speculation, anxiety, fear, and behaviour that is not what we usually expect combined with a very real threat to our health and wellbeing.

The Prime Minister and the Premier of Victoria are currently adamant that schools must stay open on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer but at the same time a great deal of work is expected of our teachers to prepare for the possibility of a transition to remote learning. It is trying times for our teachers and support staff as we continue to provide a full face-to-face program and provide curriculum for those that are at home for precautionary reasons. We do this despite the Department of Education & Training (DET) stating, “Schools are not obliged to support continuity of learning where the school remains open and parents choose to remove their children from school due to general concerns in relation to COVID-19” in the most recent bulletin to Principals. I am proud of the manner in which they are collectively working together to support our students and each other.

I am also impressed with our students, the manner in which they continue to approach their studies despite increasing numbers of absences, their concern when they are hearing unfounded rumours and speculation and the way they are continuing to participate in their education. Naturally, our VCE students are worried about what lays ahead, how their SACS will be conducted and how attendance will be monitored. I want to assure all of our community, that as information comes to hand it will be shared via a COMPASS post.

The way in which we work is changing and we need to work together to ensure success.

Personal safety has been a focus for our continued wellbeing. I want to take the opportunity to reiterate the expectations that I have asked of staff as advised by DET to implement the following social distancing strategies as far as practicable:

- Greetings should take the form of non-contact greetings.
- Where possible, staff and students should endeavour to keep 1.5 metres distance from each other.
- Schools should suspend any large gatherings of staff and students at one time, such as whole school or sub-school assemblies and large information evenings.
- Schools must not hold any events that involve over 500 people.
- Where students line up to enter class, queue for the canteen or waiting for buses, they should be encouraged to keep 1.5 metres between each other where possible.
- Students, especially in secondary schools, should be encouraged to keep a distance of 1.5 metres between each other and between themselves and staff.
- Where possible, classroom furniture should be rearranged to provide maximum space between tables.
- Seating arrangements should also be changed to maximise distance between students. For example, students can be seated along the short edges and well as long edges of tables, and tables can be moved to the full front, back and side walls of the classroom.

Important College Dates

TERM 1
- 27th Mar Last Day of Term
TERM 2
- 14 Apr 1st Day of Term 2
- 22nd Apr School Athletics carnival (CANCELLED)
- 23rd Apr 2021 Information Evening (CANCELLED)
- 24th Apr DVC Open Day (CANCELLED)
- 30th Apr Year 7 Immunisation
- 27 May Yr 12 Motivational Dinner (TBC)
TERM 3
- 10 Sept Year 10 Formal (TBC)
- 14 Sept Year 9 City Campus experience
TERM 4
- 19 Oct Year 12 Celebration Day (TBC)
- 10 Nov Year 7 & Year 10 Immunisations
- 19 Nov Year 12 Formal
- 30 Nov Year 9 Work Experience (2 Weeks)
• Student group work should be suspended, except where students are collaborating using digital technologies.

• Except for very young students, student work can be handed to a teacher for feedback rather than feedback being provided immediately by the teacher in close proximity to the student.

We were pleased that DET has extended the contractual cleaning hours provided to school and one of our regular cleaners will be working during the school day to clean high touch areas such as door handles, keyboards, photocopiers, phones, handrails etc. and extra cleaning for bathrooms and toilets.

I must reiterate yet again that any student who feels unwell at the beginning of the day should remain at home and any student who begins to feel unwell during the day should report immediately to the General Office and we will ask that they be collected.

Thank you for your continued support and please contact our coordinators, wellbeing team, Justin or I if you need any support or have questions.

Enjoy your weekend.

Allison Bennett
Principal