

# PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

Diamond Valley College 165-179 Main Hurstbridge Rd, Diamond Creek , Phone: 9438 1411 , Website:

## Important College Dates

### TERM 2

- 8th June Queens Birthday Public Holiday
- 26th June Last day of Term

We have just completed our first full week of remote learning and I think it has gone remarkably well. The feedback from staff, students and parents that I have spoken to has been extremely positive. It is not perfect, there have been technical issues and we are learning what the right balance is in regards to work expectations so expect adjustments as we go along.

A frustration for parents is seeing that their child has been marked absent, when they can attest to them sitting at the kitchen table doing their work. Please bear with us, we are looking at ways of making roll marking more manageable but the reality is that connecting with each student remotely is very different to calling the roll at the beginning of each session and entering the data on COMPASS. The DET has stated that schools are required to report on attendance once a day. I have asked that staff who teach period 1, place their attendance on COMPASS as soon as practicable. Wellbeing mentors are also marking their rolls first thing, so it is important that students are online from 8.40 to 8.50 to touch base with their mentor. All other rolls will be entered at some stage throughout the day.

If there is a discrepancy, you or your child may email the teacher to confirm their participation and the roll will be adjusted.

Discussions have occurred this week amongst our staff about the expectations on homework for years 7 to 10. It has been agreed that with staff and students engaging in remote learning that there is enough screen time and that students need a break away from their computer. Some students may need to complete small amounts of class work from that day but extra tasks should not be set.

VCE students will need to continue with their study and revision routines, particularly as we wait for advice from VCAA. A briefing scheduled for yesterday was unexpectedly cancelled which is disappointing as I had hoped to share with staff and students the direction planned for the remainder of the year in relation to VCE, VET and VCAL. I hope that by next week we will have something to share.

You will have received an invitation via COMPASS to join a free webinar held by Elevate Education. It is aimed at supporting parents to support their children with remote learning. It is a free 60-minute session being held on Tuesday 28 April at 6.00pm. We use Elevate Education at the College with our study skills program and find them to be knowledgeable and relatable. It might be something useful if you have the time.

(Continued over page)



### Statement of Commitment

DVC is committed to Child Safety. We want children to be safe, happy and empowered. We support and respect children, as well as staff and volunteers.

## PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

The DET have released information regarding support for those without internet access. They have 21,000 dongles ordered with 11,000 of these already allocated to disadvantaged students. I am not hopeful that we will get any allocation of these. As an alternative, they have negotiated education internet plans with two providers to assist with connection. These are available at a significantly subsidised rate. Families need to meet certain criteria including:

- They need to reside in an NBN serviced area
- They do not have an existing NBN service
- They have school aged children living at the residence
- They are in receipt of a Job Seeker Allowance or Family Tax Benefit

Please contact Justin or myself for further information regarding this.

Enjoy your weekend and do not forget to spend time reflecting tomorrow for ANZAC Day.

**Allison Bennett**

**Principal**

### Statement of Commitment

DVC is committed to Child Safety. We want children to be safe, happy and empowered. We support and respect children, as well as staff and volunteers.