

PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

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

Important College Dates

TERM 2

- 22nd May The Tech Free House Challenge
- 25th May Student Free Day
- 26th May Year 11 & 12 return to school
- 8th June Queens Birthday Public Holiday
- 9th June Year 7—10 return to school
- 26th June Last day of Term

I imagine there was a great deal of excitement and relief as the government advised of a staged return of students to school. The fact that it is occurring earlier than anticipated is a testament to the commitment all Victorians have made to ensure that we remain safe.

I have sent a communication to parents that outline our staged return to school. This begins with all staff working onsite on Monday 25 May – a designated statewide student free day. This time allows teams of teachers time to work together to prepare resources and adjust their programs to cater for face-to-face teaching.

On May 26, we will welcome back our Year 11 and 12 students, who I know will be pleased to return to on site classes. They and their teachers are to be commended for the manner in which they have continued their VCE journey and completed SAC's under very difficult circumstances. They have also dealt with the unknown – no final date for the year, no exam timetable scheduled, and uncertainty as to how this year will influence their goals to enter university. I expect to have clarification in relation to these issues shortly and will communicate them immediately.

I will send advice shortly on Year 10 students who study a VET or VCE unit and how they will be able to attend classes on site. We must consider all implications of this, as students must not miss their scheduled classes to travel home and therefore will most likely be required to stay on site all day.

On June 9, we will welcome all students to the College, which we are very much looking forward to. A great deal of planning needs to occur prior to this date and I encourage you to have discussions at home about the importance of keeping everyone safe. Whilst DET does not expect students to socially distance themselves, it is common sense that we work together to ensure best practice by:

- Participating in good hygiene practices
- Assisting teachers to keep rooms and equipment such as those used in sport, science and technology clean
- Where possible distancing from each other for example in the school grounds, canteen queue and before and after school
- Staying home whenever unwell

All classrooms will be equipped with hand sanitizer, gloves and cleaning materials to disinfect common areas, increased cleaning hours will ensure that high use areas are regularly cleaned throughout the day and staff workspaces will be adjusted to ensure appropriate social distancing.

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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.

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We are still in the consultative stage, but I do not anticipate that we would need to stagger the start and finish times or our breaks. Instead, we may look at designated areas for our students in the interim to ensure they are spread across the campus. However, if we believe that further adjustments are required we will make them for the benefit and safety of all.

Questions will be asked about the current mobile phone policy that is compulsory in all Victorian schools and how this will be managed when a student has the COVID Safe app on their phone. Our practice will be consistent with government expectations which were released to schools this morning. DET's directive is that the policy stays in place. Students who have the COVID safe app on their phone are to ensure it is activated while they are entering the College grounds. They are to then turn their phone off and store it in their locker. At the end of the day, they are to turn on their phone immediately and ensure the app is activated.

Prior to the announcement of students and staff returning to face-to-face classes, we had begun planning for our Tech Free House Challenge. Students were disappointed that the Athletics Carnival was postponed, particularly the Year 12 students who had planned costumes for their final whole school event! We felt that a day free from technology and screen time combined with a bit of fun was in order. Information will be sent to students via COMPASS early next week as we feel that it is important and will bring everyone together as they compete for house points. The Tech Free House Challenge will be held on Friday 22 May, with students encouraged to dress in their House colors and participate in a range of activities to accumulate points for their House. We hope parents will support and maybe get involved in some of the activities.

Now for a message from our College Captains. Thank you to Ainsley, Harvey, Molly and Sabine for taking the initiative to ask to include a message to the school community.

Hi Everyone,

We would like to commend the hard work and resilience undertaken by both students and teachers. We understand this is a difficult time for all and would like to extend our thanks to those that helped to make the transition from face-to-face learning to online classes possible. It is great to see everyone working together and looking after one another despite the issues that we currently face. Let's take this as a learning experience and continue onwards with positive strides.

We would also like to acknowledge the pride we feel towards all students, especially to our fellow Year 12's who have continued to work diligently through such a stressful time. Even though this is not the year we envisaged, there's not much longer to go - we can do it! Let's continue working to the best of our abilities despite these setbacks.

Continue to support each other through this tough time, we look forward to seeing everyone soon! Good luck over the next few weeks, keep working hard :)

Let's get through this together,

2020 College Captains

Allison Bennett

Principal

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