

PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

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Important College Dates

TERM 2

- 8th June Queens Birthday Public Holiday
- 9th June Year 7—10 return to school
- 26th June Last day of Term

TERM 3

- 13th July Term commences
- 9th Sept GAT

TERM 4

- 5th Oct Term commences
- 9th Nov VCE Exams commence

What a great week it has been for us. On Monday, we welcomed back all staff who spent the day catching up and preparing for the return of our senior students. They of course had to become accustomed to the new guidelines in place to ensure personal safety but there was a sense of relief to be back at school and know that a timeline was in place to return to a routine they have missed.

Then of course, on Tuesday we welcomed 200 senior students. We may have been a bit more excited than they were but it was great to see them back in class and keen to get back on track, particularly completing SAC's that had been put on hold due to resource issues. There was such a positive vibe in the school, one that Justin and I have missed over the past 6 weeks. Schools were never intended to be empty!

The journey of remote learning has been an interesting one and we have learnt a great deal about our students and ourselves. We have seen some students absolutely thrive, while others have struggled with the lack of teacher and peer contact. Parents have had the opportunity to understand their child's learning needs in a way never experienced before and many have a greater appreciation for the work of teachers and the schools support team. This comment is based on anecdotal evidence and what we would like is for every family to complete the DET survey that would give us formal feedback on the support provided during remote learning. There is a parent survey and a student survey to ensure we access feedback from all members of the learning community. A link, username and PIN was sent to you via COMPASS on Wednesday. This link will be open until late June. We will send reminders over the coming weeks to ensure we receive as many responses as possible from each family. Students will be encouraged to complete the survey (using the Student PIN) by their wellbeing mentor or their Home Group Teacher on their return.

Thank you for your support of our Tech Free House Challenge. We received positive feedback from those involved and staff have been busy tallying house points. We will announce the results at our whole school assembly, which will be held once all students return. From what I have seen there was a lot of cooking, exercise and creativity which is what we intended. As part of the day, I encouraged parents to send a letter of thanks so that I could create a gratitude wall. It is slowly growing but it would be great to receive more messages. It is never too late to get involved.

We are in one of the busiest times in secondary schools as families of Grade 6 students make their decision about secondary education for 2021. Understandably, there is greater angst this year as tours and open days were cancelled, leaving parents to make decisions based on conversations with their friends and neighbours. If you know of anyone who is still deciding whether DVC is the school for them, please encourage them to browse our website, watch the video made by some of our Year 11 students which is available on the website and encourage them to speak to Justin or I. We will answer their queries and arrange a tour of the College once these are made available again.

I hope you have a great weekend. One more week to go - well done!

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.