

PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

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Important College Dates

TERM 3

- 20th July Remote Learning commences
- 9th Sept GAT
- 18 Sept Last day of Term

TERM 4

- 5th Oct Term Commences
- 9th Nov VCE Exams commence
- 10th Nov—Year 7 & 10 Immunisations
- 18 Dec Last day of Term

Today all of our students returned to full time studies and it is different again to what we have experienced. With only part of the state experiencing lockdown conditions, the DET has had to determine how VCE/VET and VCAL students can best be catered for and not be disadvantaged in comparison to their peers in the rest of Victoria. Subsequently it was decided that they needed to learn on site and start with other students at the beginning of term.

I have been impressed with the manner in which our Year 12, 11 and 10 students approached last week. We took each day as it came, tweaked our processes to ensure we met DET requirements and will continue to do so as adjustments are made to the DET School Operation Guide.

Our students have been incredibly patient and cooperative as we ask them to sign in and have a temperature check. This includes the many students who have dropped in to collect textbooks, computers and internet devices. There are some families we still have not seen this week and I cannot emphasise strongly enough how important it is that lockers need to be accessed so that every student is prepared for remote learning. We know that remote learning for Years 7 to 10 is in place until at least August 19, but it may very well go for longer than this. It is an unknown.

This week we are reestablishing wellbeing teams, with all teaching staff and some education support staff touching base with our students via Teams each morning during home group time. They may also contact their wellbeing team during the day so that a more meaningful conversation can take place. Please support this process by ensuring your child/ren are online by 8.40 in the morning. Some mornings it might be a video conference and other mornings there might be a message asking for a thumbs up to identify that they are online and ready for class. Staff use this information to mark home group rolls.

For parents the thought of returning to remote learning is going to be met with mixed emotions. For some a sense of relief as anxieties levels heighten and for others dread as the logistics of learning from home become a reality again. Please remember we are here to help. Contact year level coordinators sooner rather than later if you are concerned about your child's progress, their wellbeing or their engagement. Encourage contact with their friends via the means available to us and ensure they are having regular breaks from screen time.

Our teachers have reflected, considered feedback from students and parents and used the time available to them last week to prepare for this week and those ahead. Justin has sent out the revised learning guide that clarifies our approach to remote learning.

If you are in need of IT support during the remote learning period, please contact me as a matter of urgency. I still have approximately 20 laptops available and a small number of internet devices. They are available to help you, so please do not hesitate to ask for support.

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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.

PRINCIPALS MESSAGE (cont)

At the end of last term, we put together a fantastic newsletter which I thank Rachel Psaila for and those that contributed articles. It included an introduction to our new staff Hannah Dalgleish (Psychology/Science/Maths), Marije Liem Weits (Biology/Science), Gemma Patterson (Art/Vis Comm) and Christina Polatajko. Over the holidays we appointed David Pincheira who is joining us in the Technology department. Watching him with the VCE Product Design Technology students, I know we have appointed a teacher who will guide our students with confidence and bring expertise as they begin construction of their products.

In other staffing news John Reade continues on medical leave and Felicity Paciocco begins her family leave today. On behalf of the College community I wish her all the best and we look forward to meeting the new edition to her family.

We also welcome 10 new students across the junior levels, and I wish them well as they begin the DVC journey. It is hard enough starting at a new school, let alone learning remotely. If by chance you know one of these students, please reach out to them and make them feel welcome.

While remote learning is in place we will return to weekly Principal Reports to ensure that you feel informed on latest updates.

Stay safe and stay in touch.

Allison Bennett
Principal

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ATTENTION **APPLICATION TO TRAVEL FORMS 2021**

PLEASE READ ALL INFORMATION AND NOTE BUS TRAVELLER PROCEDURES.
THESE PROCEDURES ARE DIRECTIVES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND
PUBLIC TRANSPORT VICTORIA.

Parents and students please note that **ALL** bus travellers **MUST** complete an Application to Travel form for the 2021 school year. These forms are available for download from the Diamond Valley College website or by clicking on the following link <http://www.dvallcoll.vic.edu.au/travelling-to-diamond-valley-college/> . Applications should be completed **IN FULL**, including a **VALID PERSONAL PARENT EMAIL ADDRESS** (please do not use a business email address) and returned to the General Office no later than Friday 04 September 2020 to allow planning for the 2021 school year. Students will **NOT BE PERMITTED TRAVEL** via the College Bus Network without a current "Application to Travel" form, regardless of eligibility.

Regardless of your child's years of travel, or eligibility these processes need to be followed for each new year of travel.

The application form must be completed in full including the **CORRECT BUS** and stop as indicated on the relevant timetable available on the College website. Should you not nominate a preferred bus, one will be allocated to you on the basis of location and availability.

Late forms will be accepted, however no guarantees are given regarding a place on the preferred bus. Every endeavour will be made to accommodate students being placed on their requested bus.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me on 9438 1411.

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