

PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

Diamond Valley College 165-179 Main Hurstbridge Rd, Diamond Creek

Phone: 9438 1411

Website: www.dvallcoll.vic.edu.au

Important College Dates

TERM 3

- 5th Aug to 18th Sept Remote Learning
- 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

I feel that this week has been a little more settled, now that we are back into a routine and everyone is in the same situation. Justin and I continue to be based at school, our days filled with supporting staff, students and parents. Our planning for the remainder of this year and 2021 continues, as enrolments firm up and we can begin making decisions about subject offerings and staffing for next year.

Our Year 12 students are fast approaching the final weeks of their studies. We are four weeks into Unit 4 and there is finally some clarity about what the end of the year will look like and how their ATAR's will be determined. The Senior Sub School is ensuring that accurate information is being distributed as soon as we receive it, as we are careful not to rely on media reports. DET and VCAA are our sources of confirmed information, and if nothing else has been learnt, we need to be patient and the information will be released when it has been thought through and contingencies considered.

Our role at this point is to support these students as much as possible. We have had year 12 students on site to complete SACs and collect resources, while teachers have been moderating SACs to ensure students are receiving feedback in a timely manner.

Parent teacher interviews are being held next week for those studying a unit 4 subject. We appreciate that interviews were held only 4 weeks ago but a great deal has happened in that time. It is the perfect opportunity to ensure all requirements have been met for Unit 3, discuss the adjustment to remote learning and to identify supports required for Unit 4 and exam preparation. This feedback is better now than later.

As we continue with remote learning Wellbeing support is paramount. Please work with us if you are concerned about your child's wellbeing. The management of an online curriculum, accessibility of teachers and social isolation can all trigger changed behaviours. Please, look after each other and let us know how we can help.

Feedback from our students every year is highly valued and we are proud of the improvements we have made that are recognised by our students via our Attitudes to School Survey. This year the survey will include questions about the impact of COVID 19 and remote learning on them and their family. Due to the changed nature of the survey, parents and guardians will have the opportunity to opt their children out. Attached is information about the survey provided by DET so that you can consider our students participation. To opt out an email would need to be sent to me by Friday 21 August. For those that do participate, it is a valuable opportunity to acknowledge the wonderful work our staff have done in very difficult circumstances.

We are making every attempt to keep some sense of normality for everyone but we appreciate how difficult it is. Thank you for your continued support and the words of appreciation and encouragement. They mean a great deal.

Take care this week and remember, reach out if we can help in any way.

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.

PRINCIPALS MESSAGE (cont)

PARENT / GUARDIAN INFORMATION AND CONSENT LETTER

2020 Student Attitudes to School Survey

Dear Parent / Guardian,

This letter is to inform you about the 2020 Student Attitudes to School Survey (AtoSS), that your child is invited to participate in.

About the survey

We value student voice as a means to improving student engagement, wellbeing and quality instruction and are conducting a survey to find out what your child thinks of your school.

The AtoSS is an annual student survey offered by the Department of Education and Training to assist schools in gaining an understanding of students' perceptions and experience of school.

This year, the survey also includes some questions about student health and wellbeing and student perceptions of COVID-19. Understanding health and wellbeing needs has always been important, but especially so this year, and the Department is providing this survey to allow schools to capture this information to support students. Students will be asked about their thoughts and feelings in relation to their school, family, friends, health (including mental health) and wellbeing, and bullying.

The health and wellbeing questions are taken from another Department survey called the Victorian Student Health and Wellbeing Survey (VSHAWS) that has been conducted with a sample of schools in Victoria since 2014. The questions about COVID-19 have been developed by or recommended by the Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

This year, the AtoSS will be conducted at your school over the period Monday 24 August to Friday 18 September.

What are the risks?

While we do not anticipate many risks of participation, some students may find the survey questions to be more personal and sensitive in nature this year. Should you agree for your child to participate, they are still free to skip questions or to withdraw at any stage if the survey makes them upset or uncomfortable.

What are the benefits?

In our experience, the majority of young people enjoy having the chance to have their say. Your school will use the survey results to plan programs and activities to improve your child's schooling experience.

What will my child be asked to do?

Your child will be invited to complete the survey **online during class time** using a purpose built secure online survey tool. It is important to note that we are not in any way "testing" your child. Please note:

Student participation in the survey is voluntary and students may withdraw at any time.

The survey will take around 30-40 minutes to complete.

How is my child's confidentiality protected?

Your child will be provided with a unique login to complete the survey from their teacher. The student login is an assigned identifier that may be used to link data for statistical and research purposes only. Personally identifiable data will not be recorded in the survey response file. This ensures that the confidentiality of your child's responses is protected at all times.

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PRINCIPALS MESSAGE (cont)

How will results be reported?

The survey results will be reported back to the school in an aggregate form in term 4. All survey data that is made available in reports are for groups of students only so that no individual student can be identified. Data suppression rules are used for schools with low student numbers per year level.

Options for participation

Participation in this survey is **voluntary**. If you **do not** wish for your child to do the survey, please opt out via email to Justin Matt at Justin.matt@education.vic.gov.au. Please do so before Friday 21 August stating that you wish to opt out of your child's participation, along with their name, school and year level.

If your school does not receive a Refusal of Consent email from yourself before the survey commencement date mentioned within this letter, it means that you give your consent for your child to participate in the 2020 Attitudes to School Survey.

A copy of the survey that we are asking your child to complete is available from your child's school. Please contact the Justin Matt if you would like to see the survey before making your decision about whether you would like your child to participate.

If you would like more information, please speak to your child's teacher, or contact the Department at attitudes.school.survey@education.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

The Department of Education and Training Victoria

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